



Medical University of South Carolina  
Department of Rehabilitation Sciences  
College of Health Professions

## **COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS**

### **FAQs**

#### **ABOUT THE PROGRAM**

##### **What is MUSC's *Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD)* graduate program?**

The CSD program is a two-year graduate program of study leading to a *Master of Science (M.S.)* degree in *Rehabilitation Science, Communication Sciences and Disorders* track. The emphasis is on medical speech-language pathology, i.e., the diagnosis and treatment of individuals of all ages whose ability to communicate or swallow is compromised by a developmental problem, an anatomic anomaly, trauma, a medical disorder, or a post-surgical condition.

##### **Is the *Communication Sciences and Disorders* graduate program accredited?**

Yes. The content of the interdisciplinary curriculum meets the requirements established by the Council for Academic Accreditation (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) (<http://www.asha.org>).

##### **What are some important milestones before I will be permitted to practice speech-language pathology?**

Graduates are eligible to apply to the Council for Clinical Certification (CFCC) to receive a Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP), which is required to enter clinical practice after graduation. After receiving a Master of Science degree, all candidates for the CCC-SLP must complete a Clinical Fellowship and pass the ETS *Praxis II Speech-Language Pathology Examination* (national boards). In addition, almost all states require a license to practice speech-language pathology.

##### **Does MUSC's *Communication Sciences and Disorders Program* prepare me for work with children and adults?**

Yes. You will take course work in pediatric and adult speech-language disorders, and you will have supervised clinical experiences with both populations of clients.

##### **What types of clinical experiences will I have if I enroll in MUSC's *Communication Sciences and Disorders* graduate program?**

While on campus, you will have clinical experiences in the public schools, in a pediatric setting, and in an adult healthcare setting. During the last semester, you will be required to complete two (2) "external rotations." Each 8-week placement is *outside Charleston* (with rare exceptions). An interview or other criteria might be required by the external clinical facility. Students select from existing clinical affiliation facilities; new contracts are established at the discretion of the Director of Clinical Education in collaboration with university counsel. Prerequisites include minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA, plus satisfactory completion of comprehensive examinations and professional development requirements

#### **ABOUT CSD PREREQUISITES**

##### **Do I need a bachelor's degree to apply?**

Yes. You are required to have a bachelor's degree (any major).

##### **If I have a bachelor's degree in speech-language pathology, may I accelerate my graduate program?**

No. For the most part, the courses we offer are at the graduate level and are required of all students. If your undergraduate transcript (and course syllabi) demonstrate that you have mastered particular concepts (e.g., sign language), the course faculty may allow you to waive that particular topic, or exempt by passing an examination. In the rare instance where a course (or part of a course) is waived, this could lighten your study load, but will not accelerate it.

##### **Am I required to fulfill prerequisites?**

Yes. Read the *Communication Sciences and Disorders* application carefully, as it provides these details.

##### **Am I required to fulfill prerequisite courses before I register as a full-time student?**

Yes. You are required to complete your prerequisites before you register as a full-time student in the first semester of the graduate program.

##### **May I apply before I complete the prerequisites?**

Yes. You may submit an application before you complete the prerequisites. If we accept you into the program while you are still working on your prerequisites, your acceptance will be *conditional* on successful completion of those courses, as evidenced by an official undergraduate university transcript.

##### **What science prerequisites must I have, and how many semester credit hours for each prerequisite?**

The program requires transcript evidence of the following semester credit hours (grade "C" or better in each):

*(See table below.)*

Prerequisites	Semester hours
General human anatomy or anatomy of speech and hearing	3 min.
<b>Plus:</b>	
Biological science	3 min.
Physical science	3 min.
Social/behavioral science	3 min.
Mathematics (nonremedial)*	3 min.
Statistics (introductory)*	3 min.

\*Note: A course in "probability" will not satisfy the math or statistics prerequisites.

**Other highly recommended optional prerequisites:**

- Introduction to communication sciences & disorders / speech pathology;
- Eight hours of observation of speech pathology services (therapy, assessment, counseling);
- Writing composition; and
- Research design / methods.

**May I substitute a general anatomy course with anatomy of the speech and hearing mechanism?**

Yes. The prerequisite is *either* general human anatomy *or* anatomy of speech and hearing.

**Must my science courses have labs?**

No. Labs, while desirable, are not required.

**If I have only 9 science credits, and you require 12, will this detract from my application?**

Yes. Your application will not be reviewed until all prerequisites are documented (completed or planned). If you have science courses that you think are comparable to those listed above, please send your transcript to Ms. Ashley Stuckey in the Office of Enrollment Management (OEM) for an appraisal. We will work with OEM in response to special requests on a case-by-case basis.

**What if I studied biology (for example) on a pass-fail basis, must I take biology again for a grade?**

No. Do not repeat the course. Pass-fail courses are acceptable. Our records, based on your official undergraduate transcript, will reflect that you have completed the prerequisite.

**Must I complete an introductory statistics course in order to qualify for admission?**

Yes. In the curriculum, there are a series of coordinated research courses. These include: introduction to evidence-based practice, quantitative research, qualitative research, and single-subject experimental design. In addition, basic statistical knowledge is important to your understanding of speech, language, and psychological tests, which you will learn about during your program. Therefore, a background course in basic statistical concepts and methods is an important prerequisite.

**What if I took the GRE some time ago, and I did not take the new analytic/writing section? Must I retake the writing section before I apply?**

Yes. The analytic/writing portion of the GRE is now standard (after October 1, 2002), and we require all applicants to submit these scores.

**Your older brochures indicated that a computer course, medical terminology and CPR were required before admission. Is this still true?**

No. These courses are no longer required before admission. However, 1) computer skills are essential to your success in the program; 2) you will be required to study medical terminology during your first semester at MUSC; and, 3) you will be required to take a CPR course (that we arrange for you) before you go on a clinical rotation.

**What factors are considered in my application?**

The CSD Admissions Committee makes every effort to appraise "the whole student" when making decisions about whom to accept into the program. Some of the factors that are entered into consideration are: your science GPA (minimum 3.0), your overall GPA (minimum 3.0), your GRE scores (minimum 25<sup>th</sup> percentile in each), your letters of recommendation, and your personal statement.

**Is the application process competitive?**

Yes. Applicants with GPAs and GREs that surpass our minimum requirements, and applicants with superior undergraduate recommendation letters and activity records will be given preference.

**ABOUT THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS**

**When may I apply?**

The application is available beginning July 1 for classes starting the following year.

**What are the application deadlines?**

The early application deadline is October 15<sup>th</sup>, the regular application deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup>, and the late application deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup>. If you meet the application criteria, you are encouraged to apply during early admissions (deadline October 15<sup>th</sup>), because the pool of applicants is smaller.

**Am I required to apply on-line?**

Yes. The on-line application is the only form of application MUSC is offering this year. There is a \$75 non-refundable processing fee for the on-line application. Upon completing the on-line application, you will receive an email containing any additional application materials required by your program. See <http://www.musc.edu/em/admissions>.

**Does MUSC have a standard form that I should use for letters of recommendation?**

Yes. These are available from within the application. You may choose to give recommenders access to the electronic recommendation system when you submit your application (preferred), or you may print out paper forms prior to

submission. You can find the standard reference form at: <http://www.musc.edu/es/admis/health/index.html>.

#### **How do I double-check that MUSC has received all my application materials?**

Once you submit your application, you will have access to the application's progress website 24 hours/day, 7 days/week: <http://www.musc.edu/es/application/progress.html>. You can see a list of items received and those still needed along with personal notes and contact information from Ms. Ashley Stuckey in the Office of Enrollment Management. You may also contact the Communications Sciences and Disorders Student Services Coordinator, Ms. Susan Johnson.

#### **Does the CSD program have "minimum eligibility requirements"?**

Yes. As part of your official application, you will be asked to review these requirements, which include technical and professional skills and attributes. After you are admitted, they will be reviewed with you periodically as you progress through the program.

#### **When should I plan to start?**

A mandatory orientation for new students is the third Monday in May. Classes start the next day.

### **INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS**

#### **Address and Phone**

Medical University of South Carolina  
Department of Rehabilitation Sciences  
Communication Sciences and Disorders  
151-B Rutledge Avenue  
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#### **MUSC Bulletin**

College of Health Professions:  
<http://www.musc.edu/bulletin/chp/index.html>  
Department of Rehabilitation Sciences:  
<http://www.musc.edu/bulletin/chp/rehab/index.html>  
Communication Sciences and Disorders:  
<http://www.musc.edu/bulletin/chp/csd/index.html>

#### **MUSC Communication Sciences and Disorders Website**

CSD homepage: <http://www.musc.edu/chp/csd>

#### **American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Resources**

ASHA's homepage: <http://www.asha.org>  
Explore the professions:  
<http://www.asha.org/students/professions/>  
Online guide to graduate programs accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation:  
<http://www.asha.org/gradguide/>  
Distance education resources:  
<http://www.asha.org/students/academic/distance.ed.htm>

#### **Recommended Introductory Textbook**

Owens, R.E., Metz, D.E., & Haas, A. (2006). *Introduction to communications disorders: A life span perspective* (3rd ed.). Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

#### **CHP Office of Student Affairs, and Disability Services**

[http://www.musc.edu/chp/chpstu\\_services/student\\_services.htm](http://www.musc.edu/chp/chpstu_services/student_services.htm)

[http://www.musc.edu/chp/chpstu\\_services/prospective/disability.htm](http://www.musc.edu/chp/chpstu_services/prospective/disability.htm)

#### **Jennifer Bailey, MEd**

Director of Student Affairs  
College of Health Professions  
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Phone (843)792-3326  
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[baileyjc@musc.edu](mailto:baileyjc@musc.edu)

### **ADMISSIONS CONTACT NAMES**

#### **Ms. Ashley Stuckey**

Health Professions Admissions  
MUSC Office of Enrollment Management  
Website: <http://www.musc.edu/em>  
Admissions:  
<http://www.musc.edu/em/admissions/index.html>  
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E-mail: [stuckey@musc.edu](mailto:stuckey@musc.edu)

#### **Ms. Susan Johnson**

Student Services Coordinator  
Department of Rehabilitation Sciences  
Email: [rehabadmissions@musc.edu](mailto:rehabadmissions@musc.edu)

#### **Dr. Peter Bowman**

Director of Recruitment  
Department of Rehabilitation Sciences  
Email: [bowmanpi@musc.edu](mailto:bowmanpi@musc.edu)

#### **Dr. Jennifer Horner**

CSD Program Director  
Chair, Department of Rehabilitation Sciences

#### **Ms. Patricia Smith**

Administrative Assistant to the Chair  
Email: [smithpaw@musc.edu](mailto:smithpaw@musc.edu)

*Thank you for your interest. We hope to see you in May, 2008!*

**Peter J. Bowman, OTD, OTR/L,  
OT(C), Dip.COT**

**Director of Rehabilitation Sciences Recruitment**

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