Frequently Asked Questions: Master of Science in Communication Disorders (MSCD)

When is the deadline for applications?
The application deadline for Fall semester is February 1st for Fall admission. ALL completed applications and required documents must be received by the Office of Graduate Studies by the application deadline without exceptions.

What are the admissions requirements for current undergraduate students or persons who possess a baccalaureate degree?

- Completion of the prerequisite courses with a minimum grade of “C” by the end of the summer semester of the academic year in which the applicant applies for admission.

- Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Transcripts for all course work at regionally accredited colleges or universities attended should be provided. In reviewing applications, emphasis will be placed on the most recent 60 credits completed. A GPA of 3.5 or higher is considered competitive.

- Completion of the MSCD application, including 3 letters of recommendation, and Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores. Official GRE scores must be requested from the testing agency (School Code 2889) and reported directly to the Office of Enrollment Management. Scores at or above the 50th percentile in the Verbal and Quantitative sections will be considered competitive.

  o The Graduate Record Examination: GRE Official test scores must be requested from the appropriate testing agency and reported directly to the Office of Enrollment Management. The GRE exam must be completed by the applicant within the last ten calendar years. An official agency copy must be received by the Office of Enrollment Management before a final offer of admission can be made. For information on testing locations and times visit www.ets.org.

  o Students who have been granted a Masters degree from an accredited College or University do not need to provide GRE scores.

- Students must meet the "Technical Standards and Essential Functions" requirements for participation in Stockton’s MSCD Program. These functions can be reviewed online at:
  
  http://intraweb.stockton.edu/eyos/health_sciences/content/docs/Technical%20Standards%20for%20Admission%20and%20Retention(1).pdf

Do I need to have an undergraduate major in speech-language pathology or communication disorders?

No. However, you will need prerequisite coursework. Some of this coursework can be completed through the CDPR program:

http://intraweb.stockton.edu/eyos/page.cfm?siteID=73&pageID=246
Prerequisite coursework includes the following courses or equivalents (Grade of “C” or better):

- SPAD 1101 or CMDS 5101 Phonetics
- SPAD 1102 or CMDS 5102 Speech Science I
- SPAD 1103 or CNDS 5103 Speech Science II
- SPAD 2115 or CMDS 5115 Language Acquisition
- SPAD 2119 or CMDS 5119 Introduction to Communication Disorders.

You will also need to document a grade of “C” or better in a course in:

- Biology (e.g. BIOL 1200, HLTH 2221)
- Physical Science (e.g. A course dealing primarily with the principles of physics, chemistry, astronomy, or geology).
- Mathematics (Statistics or other mathematics course)
- Social Science (e.g. a course in psychology or sociology)

**Do I need to have clinical experience before I apply?**

While a background in the human services field or a related major is helpful, clinical experience is not required prior to beginning the program. In order to receive ASHA certification, graduate students will need to complete a total of 400 hours of supervised clinical experience. Twenty-five of the hours must be in directed observation. Students with undergraduate degrees in speech-language pathology or closely related fields may submit documentation of up to 25 hours of directed observation and up to 50 hours of clinical experience (beyond observation). Approval of the hours will be on an individual basis.

**When are students admitted to the program?**

Students are admitted for the Fall semester only.

**May I enroll as a part-time student?**

No. The MSCD program is a full-time program. The full-time credit course load will consist of 9-12 credits in the Fall and Spring semesters and 6-9 credits in the Summer semesters.

**How long will the program take to complete?**

The MSCD program coursework will take a minimum of two-and-a-half academic years including two summers to complete. The MSCD is a 60 credit program which includes 325-400 hours of supervised clinical experience. In addition, all MSCD students must successfully defend his/her thesis in order to graduate.

**I am a full-time employee. Are there any evening classes or summer courses?**

Yes. All required MSCD (acronym CMDS) courses are offered during the evenings. However, students will also be required to complete three semesters of clinical practica. The student will have to be available during the hours required by the faculty where each practicum is being completed.
Can I register for a course as a non-matriculated student?
No. Only students accepted full-time into the MSCD program may enroll in MSCD courses. You may choose to enroll in the Communication Disorders Preparation Program courses as a non-matriculated student. Refer to the FAQ sheet for the CDPR program: 
http://intraweb.stockton.edu/eyos/health_sciences/content/docs/FAQ2%20Master%20of%20Science%20in%20Communication%20Disorders%20for%20Website.pdf

May I transfer credits from another masters program?
Decisions about transfer credit will be made on an individual basis. No more than 6 graduate transfer credits will be accepted.

Where can I receive more information on careers in Speech-Language Pathology?
Please visit the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) website at:
www.asha.org

Updated September 8, 2011 by AJH