Program Booklet for Applicants Considering the Master’s Degree in Communication Sciences & Disorders

Information related to admission requirements and how to apply
Our Department has four degree programs (BS, MS, PhD, and AuD). This program booklet provides information necessary for the MS – campus program, the MS – distance education program (including our partnerships with Arizona State University and University of Alaska Anchorage) and the pre-requisites necessary to become eligible for admission to the MS program. You can learn more about our other degree programs at www.ecu.edu/csd.

**CAMPUS MS DEGREE**

- Our campus MS degree is typically 5-6 semesters long.
- Students complete on-campus clinic, one part-time internship, one full-time internship.
- A thesis is optional.
- Assistantships may be available for employment within the department.

**DISTANCE EDUCATION (DE) MS DEGREE**

- We have three separate, yet similar, distance education options.
- Students in Arizona can enroll in the “Arizona Program” whereby they take at least 42 credits from ECU and at least 12 credits in clinical courses from Arizona State. ECU transfers in the ASU credits and awards the degree. The student does all their work in their own geographical location or on campus at Arizona State University. This program is 3 years (8-9 semesters). This program is for students who are residents of the state of Arizona only.
- Students in Alaska can enroll in the “Alaska Program” whereby they take at least 42 credits from ECU and at least 12 credits in clinical courses from University of Alaska Anchorage. ECU transfers in the UAA credits and awards the degree. The student does all their work in their own geographical location or in Anchorage, Alaska. This program is 3 years (8-9 semesters). There are opportunities to do one full-time internship outside of the state of Alaska. This program is for students who are residents of the state of Alaska only.
- Students who would like a Distance Education model but are not from Arizona or Alaska can enroll in our “DE” program. Across 8-9 semesters the students take at least 42 credits of classes and at least 12 credits of clinical work and graduate with at least 54 credits (60 if in NC). The student is required to attend an on-campus orientation and then does all work in their geographical location with few exceptions.
- A thesis is not available for any distance education program.
- Clinical experiences in all the DE programs will be highly variable.

**NON-CLINICAL MS DEGREE**

- For individuals who do not want to become a clinical speech-language pathologist (in any setting) we have a science based MS degree. This degree does not provide training in clinical therapy or diagnostic processes and is designed for people who want a science based degree in Communication and Its Disorders (often prior to a PhD).
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### SHORT SUMMARY OF MASTER’S PROGRAMS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>MS Degree in CSDI (speech-language pathology track)</th>
<th>MS Degree in CSDI (speech-language pathology track – Distance Education)</th>
<th>MS Degree in CSDI – non-clinical track</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A 5-7 semester program (18 months) designed to train clinical speech-language pathologists. Coursework is face-to-face at ECU in Greenville, NC. Clinics are in the vicinity of Greenville, and NC for full-time internships. Some opportunity to go out of state, if desired.</td>
<td>An 8-9 (3 year) semester program designed to train clinical speech-language pathologists. Course work is online and clinic is in the geographical location of the student.</td>
<td>A 5-8 semester master’s degree in Communication Sciences &amp; Disorders; requires a thesis for a research training component. Does not train clinical speech-language pathology.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applications are due January 15, each year for Fall enrollment (No Spring, Summer enrollments)</td>
<td>Applications are due January 15, each year for Fall enrollment (No Spring, Summer enrollments)</td>
<td>Applications are due January 15, each year for Fall enrollment (Spring &amp; Summer enrollments may be possible)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All programs: Minimum qualifications are 3.0 in overall GPA from earned bachelor’s degree and at least 30th percentile on each subtest: Verbal and Quantitative GRE. GRE cannot be waived for any reason. GRE scores must be less than 5 years old.</td>
<td>All programs: Most recent applicants had a 3.79 overall GPA, a 3.9 in the “major” (required pre-requisites), 57th percentile on the Verbal GRE and a 62nd percentile on the Quantitative GRE.</td>
<td>Clinical master’s degrees require a minimum of 54 credits to graduate with at least 60 to obtain NC state licensure for speech-language pathology. No thesis option in DE program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical master’s degrees require a minimum of 54 credits to graduate with at least 60 to obtain NC state licensure for speech-language pathology. Thesis optional.</td>
<td>Clinical master’s degrees require a minimum of 54 credits to graduate with at least 60 to obtain NC state licensure for speech-language pathology. No thesis option in DE program.</td>
<td>Minimum of 54 credits with successful completion of a required research thesis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical training consists of 3 semesters of on-campus clinic, 1 part-time internship, and one full-time internship.</td>
<td>Clinical training consists of at least 4-6 semesters of clinical internships in the geographical area of student.</td>
<td>No clinical training. Thesis work begins immediately upon enrollment. Thesis may be finished before/after courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most recent application cycle saw 200 applications with 28 accepted for program.</td>
<td>Most recent application cycle saw 200 applications with 10 selected for national program; 5 selected for Alaskan resident program and 5 for Arizona resident program.</td>
<td>No applicants for past 5 years. Non-clinical track students typically pursue a PhD instead of a non-clinical MS.degree.</td>
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</table>

Application information is available at [www.ecu.edu/csd](http://www.ecu.edu/csd). Applications are accepted beginning each September and the deadline for all materials is January 15 for enrollment in the following Fall semester.

You cannot work full-time during any of these programs with rare exceptions for Arizona & Alaska. Please speak with the Program Coordinators at University of Alaska Anchorage and Arizona State University for specific information on employment during the DE programs.
For all clinical programs (ECU campus, ECU DE, Alaska, Arizona), pre-requisite background knowledge is required for eligibility to the MS program. A background of undergraduate courses in speech and hearing sciences is essential. For those students who do not have an undergraduate degree in the field, specific undergraduate courses must be taken prior to formally beginning the MS sequence.

The graduate program in speech-language pathology or communication sciences requires completed coursework in the following areas at the undergraduate level for admission:

- Phonetics
- Anatomy of Speech and Hearing
- Neurology of Speech and Language
- Language Development
- Introduction to Audiology
- Introduction to Aural Rehabilitation
- Acquisition of Development of Articulation and Phonology
- Speech Science
- A graduate or undergraduate statistics course*
- At least 6 credits in Biology/Physical Sciences (preferably physics)*
- At least 6 credits in Social/Behavioral Sciences*

Students completing their undergraduate degree at UNC-Chapel Hill – you will need to take Aural Rehabilitation, Articulation & Its Disorders, and Neurology of Speech & Language prior to enrolling at ECU for the MS program. Many Carolina students take these courses in the summer online from various programs around the country.

Students completing their undergraduate degree at NC State typically and have pre-requisite needs should email a copy of their unofficial transcript to masterscsdi@ecu.edu to ask about required prerequisites.

NC state law requires 3 credits of Audiology and 3 credits of Aural Rehabilitation. Thus, anyone who is in NC or plans to do their MS degree in NC must have at least 6 credits of Audiology/Aural Rehabilitation on their transcript prior to the MS degree. Therefore, we require all of our students – campus or DE – to have these credits prior to enrolling in any of our MS degree options.

*These are ASHA certification requirements and must be completed prior to enrolling in the MS program. The Statistics course MUST have the word statistics in the title; general math classes are not acceptable. This can be from a community college; does not have to be taken at the undergraduate institution.
### CAMPUS PROGRAM – SEQUENCE OF COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall 1st year</th>
<th>Spring 1st year</th>
<th>Summer 1st year</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| CSDI 6100 Language Disorders  
CSDI 6104 Voice Disorders  
CSDI 6108 Articulation/Phonology Disorders  
CSDI 6121 Speech Science  
CSDI 6226 Clinic  
CSDI 6320 Methods in SLP  
**CSDI 6527 Research Seminar** | CSDI 6101 Language & Learning Disabilities  
CSDI 6114 Dysphagia  
CSDI 6110 Brain, Language & Aphasia  
CSDI 6226 Clinic  
CSDI 6321 Methods in SLP II  
**CSDI 6527 Research Seminar** | CSDI 6103 Research Design  
CSDI 6200 Multicultural Communication Disorders  
CSDI 6992 or CSDI 6226 part-time internship or on-campus clinic |
| 14 credits | 14 credits | 9 credits |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall 2nd year</th>
<th>Spring 2nd year</th>
<th>Summer 2nd year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| CSDI 6113 Linguistic/Cognitive Disorders  
CSDI 6112 Craniofacial Anomalies & Alaryngeal Rehabilitation  
CSDI 6901 Professional Issues  
CSDI 6106 Stuttering  
CSDI 6109 Motor Speech Disorders  
CSDI 6992 or CSDI 6227 part-time internship or on-campus clinic  
**CSDI 6527 Research Seminar** | CSDI 6993 Full time clinical internship | Additional clinic, if needed or completion of master’s thesis, if necessary |
| 16 credits | | |

- Students may elect to do a research thesis. This will add 3-6 credits onto the students program including a required 3 credits in CSDI 7000 (Thesis).
- The course sequence can change at any time depending upon departmental needs.
- There is only 1 elective (First Summer); this is an optional course.
- The NC public schools will pay a higher salary for speech-language pathologists who have a master’s degree worth 60 or more credits. Therefore, we have designed the program to ensure 60+ credits for all students who are in North Carolina.
- There may be funding available for students who do a research thesis.
- Students may be able to complete their full-time internship (Spring 2nd year) in other states or outside of Greenville, NC.
- Students must maintain a 3.0 to be enrolled and can earn only 1 C grade before termination is possible.
- Student programs may lengthen if clinical skills require remediation for one or multiple semesters.
- Comprehensive exam is required; it may be waived if a passing score on the PRAXIS is submitted by an announced deadline in the semester you intend to graduate.
### DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS – SEQUENCE OF COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall 1st year</th>
<th>Spring 1st year</th>
<th>Summer 1st year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSDI 6100 Language Disorders&lt;br&gt;CSDI 6108 Articulation/Phonology Disorders&lt;br&gt;CSDI 6320 Methods in SLP I&lt;br&gt;CSDI 6527 Research Seminar</td>
<td>CSDI 6101 Language &amp; Learning Disabilities&lt;br&gt;CSDI 6110 Brain, Language &amp; Aphasia&lt;br&gt;CSDI 6527 Research Seminar</td>
<td>CSDI 6103 Research Design&lt;br&gt;CSDI 6229 DE Clinical Internship&lt;br&gt;6 credits</td>
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DE students (AK, AZ too) do not complete clinic in Fall or Spring of the first year. AK students will complete summer clinic in Anchorage in Summer 1. AZ students will complete summer clinic in Phoenix in Summer 1. DE students may be enrolled in a site in their geographical location in Summer 1.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Fall 2nd year</th>
<th>Spring 2nd year</th>
<th>Summer 2nd year</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSDI 6104 Voice Disorders&lt;br&gt;CSDI 6121 Speech Science&lt;br&gt;CSDI 6229 DE Clinical Internship&lt;br&gt;CSDI 6113 Linguistic/Cognitive Disorders&lt;br&gt;CSDI 6527 Research Seminar</td>
<td>CSDI 6321 Methods in SLP II&lt;br&gt;CSDI 6114 Dysphagia&lt;br&gt;CSDI 6901 Professional Issues&lt;br&gt;CSDI 6229 DE Clinical Internship</td>
<td>CSDI 6200 Multicultural Communication Disorders&lt;br&gt;Elective&lt;br&gt;CSDI 6229 DE Clinical Internship&lt;br&gt;9 credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Alaska and Arizona students usually do not have clinic in Fall or Spring of 2nd year. DE students in other states will have clinic in their geographical location (CSDI 6229). Alaska and Arizona students do not take any sections of CSDI 6229. You will take clinical courses from UAA or ASU instead of CSDI 6229. Alaska and Arizona students typically have clinic again in Anchorage or Phoenix in Summer 2. Exceptions do exist and you will be informed of these if they occur.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall 3rd year</th>
<th>Spring 3rd year</th>
<th>Summer 3rd year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSDI 6112 Craniofacial Anomalies &amp; Alaryngeal Rehabilitation&lt;br&gt;CSDI 6106 Stuttering CSDI 6109 Motor Speech Disorders&lt;br&gt;CSDI 6229 DE Clinical Internship</td>
<td>CSDI 6229 DE Clinical Internship</td>
<td>If needed&lt;br&gt;CSDI 6229 DE Clinical Internship&lt;br&gt;3 credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DE (not AK or AZ) students are required to have clinic at least one semester in year 3 (Fall or Spring). Most DE students graduate in May. Alaska students may also graduate in Spring of year 3 if they complete an internship in Fall or Spring of the 3rd year. If that is not possible, then the student completes clinic in Summer of year 3 and graduates late July. Students in Arizona may also graduate in Spring of year 3 if they complete and internship in Fall or Spring of 3rd year. If that is not possible, then the student completes clinic in Summer of year 3 and graduates in late July. Students will not be given licensure or certification paperwork until all clock hours are completed. Many exceptions occur and students must remain flexible to alternate plans in order to complete their degree in a timely manner. Full-time employment is not recommended except with permission of the Arizona or Alaska program director. Full-time work is not allowed for students in the general DE program.
Clinical Hours Requirements (DE and On-Campus)

The Clinical Hours Requirements pertain to students in the speech-language pathology emphasis; it is not part of the non-clinical communication sciences emphasis. This pertains to both the On Campus and DE programs including AK & AZ.

Each graduate student in the speech-language pathology track of the Master’s degree in Communication Sciences & Disorders is required to accrue clinical clock hours through clinical courses. There are slightly different requirements for the different types of students in the program: On-Campus (OC), Distance Education (DE), and Alaskan Distance Education (AKDE) and Arizona Distance Education (AZDE)

Observation Hours (25 clock hour minimum)

All students (campus) are required to submit documentation of at least 25 clock hours observation of SLP or Audiology sessions by July 15th before the Fall semester of enrollment. Students must submit proof of these hours to the Director of Master’s Education for verification and approval. DE, AKDE, AZDE students will be given a deadline after acceptance into the program.

Clinical Clock hours in Speech-Language Pathology (375 hour minimum)

Clinical internships and on-campus clinic are used to accrue clinical clock hours. On campus students are enrolled in clinic each semester of the program (typically five semesters). On-campus students typically have 3 semesters of on-campus clinic, one part-time internship, and one full-time internship. Alterations of this schedule may occur based on the needs of the student and the clinical case load in the on-campus clinic. Alterations typically require students to add additional semesters to the program.

DE students complete clinic hours through clinical internships in their geographical location. In extreme circumstances, students may be required to return to Greenville for clinical placement (e.g., deficient skills or lack of sites in geographical location is delaying program). DE students are required to obtain a minimum of 12 credits of clinic over a minimum of 4 rotations at 3 separate sites; one clinical internship must take place in the final year of the program. Typically students achieve >400 hours by completing 4-6 rotations across 4-6 semesters. The Director of Master’s Education and the Internship Coordinator will make the final decision about when DE students will be required to come to Greenville for a clinical rotation.

Alaskan DE students follow the clinical program of the University of Alaska - Anchorage.

Arizona DE students follow the clinical program of Arizona State University.

All students (campus or DE and AZDE, AKDE) are required to obtain a minimum 375 clock hours of speech-language pathology diagnostics and/or treatment sessions during their program; 375 is a minimum and 400-500 is recommended. Students may request up to 50 hours accrued at the undergraduate level be counted in their 375 total. Hours worked as a speech-language pathology assistant cannot be counted. Students must submit proof of up to 50 hours to the Director of Master’s Education prior to their first semester of enrollment for verification and approval.
Hour Distribution Requirements for On-Campus and in-state DE students

All campus and in-state DE students are required to meet NC licensure requirements. As such, campus students are required to obtain hours in specific categories (at least 20 hrs. each of child diagnostics – speech, child diagnostics – language, adult diagnostics – speech, adult diagnostics – language; child treatment – speech, child treatment – language, adult treatment – speech, adult treatment – language; this accounts for 160 of the 375 minimum required hours). DE students that begin the program in NC and move out-of-state will have the option of meeting the 160 hour distribution, if they choose or meeting the requirements for out-of-state DE students.

Required Hours for Out of State DE Students

All out-of-state DE students (including AZDE, AKDE) must review state licensure requirements of the state in which they plan to seek licensure; it is the student’s obligation to ensure they meet all state licensure requirements including those related to clock hours before they apply for a state license.

Clinical Clock hours in Audiology/Screenings (2 hour minimum above & beyond the 400 hour requirement)

All students (campus or DE) are required to obtain a minimum 2 clock hours of hearing screenings above and beyond the 400 hour requirement during their program. To comply with NC Licensure and practice law, campus and in-state DE students must have hearing screening hours supervised by an audiologist (CCC-A). Out-of-state DE and AKDE & AZDE students may have hearing screening hours supervised by an audiologist or speech-language pathologist, depending upon licensure laws in that state. It is the student’s responsibility to determine if they need CCC-A or CCC-SLP supervision for their hearing screening hours if living outside of NC. Alaskan students are required to follow the policy of the University of Alaska – Anchorage regarding hearing screenings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours of observation</th>
<th>Minimum 25</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speech-language pathology hours (50 at undergraduate level, if applicable)</td>
<td>Minimum 375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audiology hearing screening hours</td>
<td>Minimum 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Total (Department may require additional hours beyond this minimum)</td>
<td>Minimum 402</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All hours listed above are MINIMUMS. The Department of CSDI reserves the right to require additional hours based on student performance, state licensure requirements, and ASHA certification requirements.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

There are slightly different requirements for the campus and DE programs, so please read carefully.

ALL MS students (campus, DE, Arizona or Alaska):

- Minimum of a 3.0 overall GPA (undergraduate, post-baccalaureate courses, other MS degrees)
- Minimum of a 3.2 in SLP pre-requisite courses (see page 4 for the courses we count here). We do not accept any C grades in pre-requisite courses.
- Minimum of the 30th percentile in the Verbal, Quantitative, and Written subtests of the GRE (EACH subtest must be 30th percentile or above)
- 3 letters of recommendation from academic educators who can verify your ability to succeed in a rigorous graduate program
- Completion of an essay or essay questions (within the CSDCAS application portal).
- Have a BS/BA in speech-language pathology or a related field OR have taken the pre-requisite courses listed on page 4 of this booklet.

ALL DE students (DE, Arizona or Alaska):

- Live at least 75 miles away from Greenville NC for the duration of the program. (You need to be distant from Greenville).
- Must be resident of a state in which ECU is authorized to provide Distance Education.
- Note: Admission of applicants residing outside the State of North Carolina to an online degree, certificate program or individual online course offered by East Carolina University, is dependent on ECU’s ability to secure authorization from the applicant’s state of residence, if such authorization is required. Due to recent changes in higher education regulations, ECU will no longer be able to offer online programs or courses for students residing in Massachusetts, Minnesota and Maryland, Ohio, or Alabama. If Alabama, please contact the email address below at destateauth@ecu.edu to find out if you are eligible to apply for our program.

For questions specific to the state authorization process, call 252/737-1268 or email destateauth@ecu.edu.

- The Distance Education MS degree is the exact same degree as the campus program. We require the same admission criteria and use the same procedures.
- You can apply to both programs. You will need to complete the online ECU application twice. You will need to complete the CSDCAS application once.
- You must have high-speed internet the entire duration of time you are enrolled in the program.
- You cannot work full-time while in our DE programs (exceptions for Arizona & Alaska may exist).
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MASTER’S PROGRAM & APPLYING

What if I don’t have an undergraduate degree in Communication Sciences & Disorders?

If your undergraduate degree is in a field other than Communication Sciences & Disorders, you MUST have at least 18 credit hours of required undergraduate courses. The specific courses are in Pre-Requisites Section of this packet; usually it takes 18-24 credit hours to accrue the content required by these course names.

How do I take the pre-requisites at ECU either online or on-campus?

We have detailed booklet explaining the procedures for enrolling in our pre-requisite courses. Please email prerequisitescsdi@ecu.edu for more information.

If I take the pre-requisites through ECU, am I guaranteed a spot in the master’s program?

No. All students in the pre-requisite program must apply specifically to the MS program(s) after they have completed most or all of the pre-requisite courses. Our pre-requisites will make you eligible for many graduate programs.

Do I have to take the pre-requisites at ECU to apply for the MS degrees at ECU?

No. We will review the course descriptions and/or syllabi from other programs to determine if the courses are acceptable. Please email the courses you have taken and the actual course descriptions to masterscsdi@ecu.edu and we will let you know if they are equivalent.

Do we have to have a statistics course?

YES. As of September 1, 2014, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association requires statistics for people who want to apply for the CCC-SLP, the national credential of speech-language pathologists. We therefore require one three-credit statistics course prior to your admission to our MS program. This can be undergraduate or graduate statistics and can also be AP credit you earned in high school that was later accepted at a university for a statistics course and is visible on a university transcript. We recommend that the word statistics is in the title of the course so that it is clear you have taken a true statistics course, not just math.
What other undergraduate courses do I need?

Students must demonstrate at least 6 credits of Biological/Physical Sciences. We prefer that you take Biology, Chemistry, or Physics, but other physical sciences are okay including geology, astronomy, etc. Also, you are required to have at least 6 credits of Social/Behavioral Sciences such as psychology & sociology courses. These must be completed before you begin your master’s degree. They can be from a community college; does not have to be within your undergraduate degree.

Do you offer any financial aid/assistance?

You should contact ECU Student Financial Aid Office (252 737-6610) for information regarding financial aid. Campus students may have the opportunity to apply for graduate assistantships once they are accepted to the MS program. There are no assistantships for DE students. There are no assistantships during the pre-requisites. You will apply for assistantship after you are accepted to our program, not with the MS application. We have been told that the federal government will only allow financial aid for pre-requisite courses for 9 months; therefore, our pre-requisite program is a 2 semester program. We do not have any awards at this time for DE students; however, the financial aid office may have awards and grants that are given to DE students. All potential MS students should submit their FAFSA by Valentine’s Day each year in order to be considered priority for financial aid at ECU.

I have taken some graduate courses in the field at another university. Will you accept transfer credits toward the degree?

We may accept up to 9-15 semester hours of graduate transfer credit from another institution(s) only if those credits DID NOT apply to a degree you have been granted. These courses must be in a graduate program in speech-language pathology from an ASHA-accredited university. Requests for such transfer credit must be made at time of acceptance. Transfer requests must be completed during the first Fall semester of your program. The course syllabus and official transcripts from the transferring institution must accompany the request. The course(s) to be transferred must be in the content area of the courses required in our department. Our instructors will determine if the course content warrants approval of the transfer credit. You should email the course syllabus to masterscsdi@ecu.edu the day you receive your acceptance to the Graduate School. Grades do not transfer into the program.
The Distance Education program-of-study is for three years. Can I shorten it by taking more than two courses per semester?

No. We offer undergraduate, Master’s and PhD degrees for full time students and we must adhere to a schedule and class size that we can effectively manage. We therefore cannot make any changes in the program-of-study without those changes adversely affecting the quality, and possible accreditation of the program. Therefore, you will not be allowed to take more than what has been outlined. All students must maintain a 3.0 GPA to remain in good academic standing. Students enrolled in the Alaskan partnership with University of Alaska at Anchorage or the Arizona State University have a different clinical program and need to consult with Ms. Ellen Brigham at UAA about the clinical portion of the program. The Alaskan program is for Alaskan residents who have been and will continue to reside in Alaska. The same is true for the Arizona program with Arizona State University. Students from the 48 contiguous states and Hawaii are not eligible to apply through the Alaskan or Arizona partnership. ALL students are expected to make graduate school a top priority and that often means increased use of child care, babysitting, using personal days to take off of work for class projects, meetings, and other accommodations to your personal, social, and employment schedules.

Is the DE program a part-time program?

No. Even though you are not taking “full-time” credits like you did as an undergraduate (say, 15 or 12 credits per semester), you will find graduate courses much more intense and via the DE mechanism, 8 or 9 credits per semester will seem like 12-15 credits. Do not enter our DE program thinking it is part-time and that you can fit it in around a full-time job for 3 full years. That is not the intent of our program. We do not allow summers-only clinic. We also do not allow personal exemptions such as time off for spring breaks of your children or long weekends for family weddings, vacations, etc. Yes, at times we do honor these requests just like any course instructor would; however, distance education students must recognize that once they begin graduate school, they need to operate on the ECU semester schedule utilizing ECU’s breaks for vacations and other obligations. We find that the more students attempt to alter the schedule, the less likely they are to finish the program on time or without complications. This program was not designed to assist people to keep working full-time and complete an MS degree at the same time; it was also not designed to allow for a “part-time” lifestyle so that you can keep working or care for children. Commitment to a graduate program must be a priority or you will struggle both academically and clinically during the program.
Does my state allow me to be a Distance Education student at East Carolina University?

Maybe not. Each state is now allowed by federal law to determine if ECU can be a Distance Education provider in that state. You must review the DE Authorizations website to determine if your state allows you to enroll at ECU while still living in your state.

Important Notice to Residents Outside of North Carolina: Admission of applicants residing outside the State of North Carolina to an online degree, certificate program or individual online course offered by East Carolina University, is dependent on ECU's ability to secure authorization from the applicant's state of residence, if such authorization is required.

Due to evolving changes in higher education regulations, at this time, ECU is unable to serve all of the students that are interested in our courses or programs. As of this printing, ECU will no longer be able to offer distance education online programs or courses for students residing in Alabama, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Maryland, and Ohio. BUT, this list can change at any time. Please check the current list. For the most current list of states, visit this link http://eai.ecu.edu/states/. Additionally, students enrolled in programs or courses that require internships or supervised clinical placements will be unable to complete these activities in the state listed.

The campus program-of-study is 18 months. Does it ever take longer?

There are times when a student, for many reasons, is unable to complete the program in the traditional 5 semesters. This may include clinical deficiencies, lacking clinical hours, taking time to do a research thesis, illness, personal circumstances, etc. Traditionally it is five semesters, but six or seven is also reasonable in certain situations.

What are the minimum GPA requirements for the MS degree?

Students with a 3.0 GPA or greater will be considered for the MS degree programs, both campus and DE. Students who have less than a 3.0 GPA overall are not reviewed. We do not accept any C grades in SLP courses or pre-requisites. All SLP courses must have a B or better. Students typically accepted usually have a 3.8 or higher in the major (i.e., the required pre- requisites). Generally students who have GPAs of 3.4 or higher demonstrate the most competitive applications.
What are the minimum GRE requirements for the MS degree?

The GRE Graduate School and Department of CSDI requires a 30th percentile score on both the Quantitative and Verbal sections. This is approximately a 147 on the Quantitative and a 148 on the Verbal; however percentile ranks change yearly and we use the percentile ranks for the admissions processes, not the raw score. If the ECU Graduate School does not qualify you based on your GRE scores, we will be unable to admit you. The campus cohort entering Fall 2015 had an average GRE Verbal score of 153, an average Quantitative score of 151, and an average Writing Score of 4.0. The Distance Education students for Fall 2015 admission average a 155 on the Verbal GRE, a 150 on the Quantitative GRE, and a 4.0 on the Writing GRE. It is recommended that students strive for scores that place them in at least the 50th percentile for each subtest to maintain the most competitive credentials. We do not waive the GRE for any reason.

Do you accept international applicants?

International applicants are welcome to apply to the campus program which takes place in Greenville, North Carolina. We are unable to accept international applicants into the distance education program, even if residing in the United States.

Do DE students have to come to Greenville, North Carolina?

All students, DE or campus, are required to attend a 2-3 day orientation on-campus in Greenville, NC prior to the first Fall semester they are enrolled. This is usually held in the 2nd to last week of July. After that, DE students may be required to return to Greenville if their clinical skills are determined to be deficient and probationary clinic is required. We work diligently with clinical supervisors in the students’ geographical locations to prevent this from occurring. Other than orientation and graduation, most DE students never come to Greenville (but we love when they visit!) Alaskan students, as a group, are required to attend a campus orientation at the University of Alaska at Anchorage. Ms. Ellen Brigham coordinates that and informs students of specifics. Arizona State University students are required to attend an orientation in Arizona.

Will I have online classes if I am an on-campus student?

Yes, many faculty are now utilizing technology that qualifies as having “online” classes. Both on-campus and DE students often collaborate on projects through various software programs such as Blackboard, SabaMeeting and/or Adobe Connect. Sometimes classes are “watch when you want” format and sometimes the professors require you to be in an online lecture at a specific date & time. This is an expectation of participation in the program. You will need to work these costs into your financial considerations before applying.
Is the DE program completely online?

We consider the Distance Education program a “distance education” program, not an online program. Your lectures are online, but there are classes that require library research, activities in the community (service learning), and observations at health care facilities for example. Some classes require group work and assist you with having “cyber meetings” with your classmates. You may need to speak with a faculty member and will need to make yourself available 8:00 – 5:00 PM Eastern to have phone conferences/meetings with classmates. This requires flexibility during your workday – whatever your time zone. The DE program is NOT considered a part-time program because of its intensity. You are enrolled for full-time credit most of the time and therefore you need to be prepared to handle some aspect of graduate school nearly every day, regardless of whether you are in clinicals or not. You may be required to be present during a specific date & time for classroom lectures.

How much does the Master’s program cost?

You need to consult with the Tuition & Fees experts – the Cashier’s Office. Go to www.ecu.edu and in the search box, type “tuition.” That will show you the link for the main Cashier’s Office page. Look for the link for the current semester to see what tuition is today. You should expect that your tuition will be higher as tuition does tend to increase unfortunately each year.

How do I apply?

See instructions in back of this packet

Who do I contact with questions?

All questions about the MS programs can be directed to the Director of Master’s Education at mastersCSDI@ecu.edu.
What are undergraduate background courses?
This is the background knowledge that the American Speech-Hearing-Language Association says you need to apply for the CCC-SLP (which you do at the end of your master’s degree). These are courses like Physics, Biology, Statistics, Psychology, etc. ASHA requires at least 6 credits in Physical & Biological Sciences, at least one course in Statistics, and at least 6 credits in the Social & Behavioral Sciences. You must examine your undergraduate transcript to determine if you have these credits. See the table in this packet labeled Undergraduate Background Courses. Insert your courses into that table to determine if you meet the minimums.

What are pre-requisite SLP courses?
These are sometimes called “leveling” courses. These courses are required to have the background speech-language pathology knowledge necessary to be successful in a master’s degree program. Every university may require different pre-requisite courses. As of 2012, ECU requires the course content of 8 pre-requisite courses listed elsewhere in this packet. These must be completed with a B or better by the time you enroll in the master’s degree programs in CSDI at East Carolina University. Your GPA in the SLP courses must be at least a 3.2 to be considered for our MS program. We do not accept any C grades in pre-requisite courses.

How do I complete these courses?
You need to find a university or universities that offer the same content as the courses we require. You do not have to complete these courses at ECU even if you want to go to ECU for our master’s degree programs. Ultimately, you will provide transcripts from schools showing completion prior to your first enrollment at ECU in the MS program in CSDI.

If I take them at another school, will ECU accept them?
Maybe. Email a scanned copy of your transcript, to masterscsdi@ecu.edu. We will review the course descriptions and let you know if they are equivalent to ECU’s pre-requisite requirements. We may require that you provide a syllabus to us to further document the content of a course.
If I am taking the pre-requisite SLP courses, when do I apply to graduate school at East Carolina University, Department of CSDI?

You cannot enroll in the Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders master’s degree programs until all pre-requisites are **completed**. You can **apply** while you are taking them, however. If you apply for the MS program and you have not completed your pre-requisites, and you are chosen for admission, you will be admitted **conditionally**. This means you must meet certain conditions before you are allowed to enroll in your first semester. The conditions will include that you show proof of completion (transcripts) of all your pre-requisite courses prior to the first day of school in the semester you begin. If you do not have the pre-requisites completed with a B or better, you will not be allowed to enroll. Your admission would be deferred for one year. We do not offer Spring or Summer enrollments; if you do not enroll in the Fall you are expected, then you would be allowed to defer to the next Fall while you finish the pre-requisites. The pre-requisites must be completed with a B or better or you will not meet the conditions of acceptance and you will not be allowed to enroll. Overall, you must have at least a 3.2 GPA in the SLP pre-requisite courses to be considered for our MS program.

Example: A student is taking the pre-requisites in Fall 2015 and Spring 2016. He/she would like to enroll in Fall 2016 for the master’s degree. He would therefore apply by the deadline of January 15, 2016. If admitted, he would be a conditional admission and would have to show proof of completion of the courses with a B or better by Fall 2016 or he would be denied admission.
The form is intended for people who do not have a bachelor’s degree in Communication Sciences & Disorders or Speech-Language Pathology who would like to apply to the master’s degree programs in Communication Sciences & Disorders at East Carolina University. Using your undergraduate transcript to determine if you have undergraduate background courses as required by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) for the CCC-SLP credential. If you cannot fill in the minimums, then you would require these undergraduate courses prior to enrolling in a master’s degree program. You can take these courses at any community college or at your undergraduate institution. You may have already taken them as a part of another undergraduate degree or master’s degree. ECU does not transfer in these credits; we verify that you have completed the courses.

**Biological/Physical Sciences (6 Credits) and Statistics**  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>Term/Year</th>
<th>Credits (semester hours, not quarters)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
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<td>At least 3</td>
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**Behavioral/Social Sciences (min. 6s.h.)**  

(Anthropology, Child Development and Family Relations, Gerontology, Health, Philosophy, Psychology, Rehabilitation Studies, Sociology, Social Work)

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>Term/Year</th>
<th>Credits (semester hours, not quarters)</th>
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</table>
SLP Required Pre-Requisites Needed for Admission into the MS degree

We need to see evidence of knowledge in the following areas/courses. If you take your pre-requisites elsewhere or as a part of your BS degree with a major in SLP, then we will verify that your courses are acceptable to us. If you are not sure, please email a copy of your course descriptions to masterscsdi@ecu.edu and we will confirm whether or not they are appropriate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ECU Course number</th>
<th>ECU Course Title</th>
<th>Your University</th>
<th>Term/Year</th>
<th>Credits &amp; GRADE (semester hours, not quarters)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSDI 3010</td>
<td>Phonetics</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSDI 3020</td>
<td>Language Development</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CSDI 3040</td>
<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSDI 3045</td>
<td>Speech Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSDI 3050</td>
<td>Acquisition and Development of Phonology and Articulation</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSDI 4100</td>
<td>Intro to Audiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSDI 4100</td>
<td>Aural Rehabilitation</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSDI 4440</td>
<td>Neural Processes in Speech &amp; Language (Neurology of Speech &amp; language)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

You can review our course descriptions at: http://catalog.ecu.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=8&poid=1827&returnto=517. If you are not sure if one of your courses is an equivalent to ours, please email us the course description at masterscsdi@ecu.edu and we will confirm it for you. Some of your content may have been combined into two courses. We must have 3 credits of Audiology and 3 credits of Aural Rehabilitation per NC law. We do not require Introduction to Communication Disorders. The GPA of the courses listed above must be higher than 3.2 for you to be eligible for our MS program.
THANK YOU for your interest in applying to the MS degree programs in Communication Sciences & Disorders at East Carolina University!

Please follow these instructions for all MS degrees in Communication Sciences & Disorders at East Carolina University including the Campus program, Joint program with University of Alaska-Anchorage, Joint program with Arizona State University, and our regular Distance Education program.

We typically accept 28 for the campus program, up to 5 from Alaska, up to 5 from Arizona, and up to 10 from the regular DE program. In total, we accept 48 students into our various masters programs. We do have "short" waiting lists and we often have to turn to them.

Please check our website for "open house" dates. Please RSVP at: masterscsdi@ecu.edu.

Application Instructions

READ ALL OF THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY. YOU WILL BE SENDING INFORMATION OR MATERIALS TO TWO PLACES.

There are 2 parts to the application: (1) Applying through CSDCAS, which is a centralized application service and (2) applying through ECU. ECU requires their own background check and that is why you must do BOTH the CSDCAS application and the ECU application. The student is responsible for ensuring that BOTH processes (including CSDCAS and ECU application fees) are completed by 11:59 PM on January 15th. We strongly urge you to get your application materials to CSDCAS by November 15th in order for everything to be processed by January 15th. We will not consider applications that have materials submitted late (after January 15th).

The application period begins September 17, 2015 – CSDCAS is not open until then. For full consideration, including graduate assistantships, we require that all applications be completed at CSDCAS and ECU by January 15, 2016. International applicants may need to apply much earlier to ensure that all materials are received by January 15, 2016.

STEP 1: COMPLETE THE CSDCAS APPLICATION

Visit the CSDCAS Applicant portal at https://portal.csdcas.org. Please follow the instructions carefully. CSDCAS posts Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). You are strongly encouraged to review the FAQs before completing your application. https://portal.csdcas.org/csdcasHelpPages/before-applying/index.html is one of their help pages. Please read them early and often.

If you have problems with the CSDCAS application, do not contact East Carolina University or the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. You must contact CSDCAS Customer Service at (617) 612-2030 or via email at csdcasinfo@csdcas.org.
The following information must be submitted directly to CSDCAS in order to complete your application.

**TRANSCRIPTS - FROM ALL SCHOOLS EVER ATTENDED**

1. Transcripts from all universities you have attended, even for one course, AP credit in high school, or for non-SLP degrees must be submitted.

2. If transcripts are from US institutions, you will only submit transcripts to CSDCAS. They must be **paper and official**, not digital, faxed, or unofficial.

3. If you attended any international universities, you must submit transcripts to CSDCAS and to East Carolina University, Graduate School, 131 Ragsdale Hall, Greenville, NC27858. They must be official transcripts.

4. If you have the international evaluation of your transcripts, please send those to both CSDCAS and to East Carolina University. Official evaluations are required and must be submitted to ECU by the evaluation agency. Acceptable agencies include WES (World Education Services), IEE (International Education Evaluations, Inc.), or ECE (Education Credential Evaluators).

5. Do not send any transcripts to the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

6. If you are taking classes in the Fall, we want that transcript at CSDCAS. Please ask your university to send it as soon as finals week is over in December. You can request the transcript earlier and pay for it - and indicate to your university to send it after final exam grades are posted to the transcript. Do this ahead of time so that your transcript arrives and can be processed prior to January 15th.

**PERSONAL STATEMENT**

Please make sure you take your time and answer the personal statement questions carefully. We will review them for grammar, spelling and content. Make sure you answer the questions we are asking. Our questions may not be like other universities so you will not want to cut & paste from a generic essay. Please read the CSDCAS application carefully.

**LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION - AT LEAST 3 REQUIRED**

Make sure you tell your references to complete their letters by November 15, 2015 so they are not late. We cannot consider applications that have missing references. Ask four or five people to make sure that three get completed! We **REQUIRE THAT TWO OF YOUR LETTERS COME FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE ACADEMIC PROFESSORS**. Your letters need to show that you are capable of a rigorous graduate program, not just that you are a good candidate for our program. We assume you have the personality traits required of a speech-language pathologist and we don't need to see that in a letter. We need to know that you are ready for the rigors of tough academics and the pressure of a very busy schedule. Academic faculty are the best judges of how people will do in an academic setting. Please consider your references carefully. If you call us to ask if it is "okay" if you don't have 2 academics, we are not going to be able to say yes. Our answer will be that we need 2 academic references in order to determine if you are capable of succeeding in a graduate program.
**GRE SCORES - must be official**

We must have OFFICIAL scores from CSDCAS in order to review your application. You must ask the GRE (www.ets.org) to send your GRE scores to East Carolina University CSDCAS code 7480. Do not use the general ECU code. You must use 7480 in order for CSDCAS to get your official scores. You need to complete the GRE no later than November 15th - November 25th in order for CSDCAS to get your official scores and validate them into the system for our January 15, 2016 deadline. We require a minimum of the 30th percentile on the Quantitative and Verbal subtests. This year that was a 148 or higher; the raw score changes each year as to what correlates to the 30th percentile. The writing score must be a 3.5 or higher.

**STEP 2: COMPLETE THE EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY APPLICATION**

In order for ECU to conduct a background check on you, you must also apply directly to ECU but do not send any documents to ECU at this time.

You need to go to www.ecu.edu/gradschool and follow the APPLY NOW link.

You need to complete the online application and pay a $70.00 fee which covers the background check. You do not need to send any other materials to ECU - even if you get emails asking you to. Those are automatic emails and you can ignore them.

If you have foreign transcripts - you must send those and your transcript evaluation to ECU at gradschool@ecu.edu or have them mailed to Graduate School, 131 Ragsdale Hall, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858. They must be official transcripts and an official evaluation. Foreign transcripts are THE ONLY transcripts that get sent to ECU directly. Do not send GRE scores to ECU.

Do not send letters of recommendation to ECU.

Do not send personal essays to ECU.

Complete the ECU application by November 15, 2015 to make sure your background check is done prior to January 15, 2016.

**NOTES:**

ALL ITEMS TO CSDCAS must be received by January 15, 2016. Send your Fall 2015 transcripts after classes end so we get those final grades into your application! That should be the FINAL DOCUMENT you send to CSDCAS. Everything else you should try to get there by November 15, 2015.

DO NOT SEND ANY PAPER DOCUMENTS TO ECU EXCEPT FOREIGN TRANSCRIPTS (SEE ABOVE). DO NOT DO THINGS LAST MINUTE. PLAN AHEAD AND BE CAREFUL WITH YOUR APPLICATIONS. PROOFREAD YOUR APPLICATION BEFORE SUBMISSION.
## ECU MASTER’S DEGREE CHECKLIST – Final due date is January 15, 2016

Begin application process immediately – Mid- September

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TASK</th>
<th>Recommended Due Date</th>
<th>Date You Did It</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete online CSDCAS application (make sure you check your email address and ensure that CSDCAS emails don’t go to your junk or SPAM folder. ECU communicates a lot through the CSDCAS mail service)</td>
<td>Mid - September</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete online ECU application (ignore automatic emails that tell you items are missing. No items get sent to ECU except foreign transcripts)</td>
<td>Mid - September</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Send original transcripts (paper only) to CSDCAS directly from every school ever attended.</td>
<td>End of September</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Send original FOREIGN transcripts with transcript evaluation to CSDCAS and ECU.</td>
<td>End of September</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Send OFFICIAL GRE Scores to CSDCAS – Code 7480 for ECU CSDCAS</td>
<td>No later than November 15th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete personal essay in CSDCAS system</td>
<td>No later than November 15th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ask references to write you a letter (3 required, ask 4-5)</td>
<td>Mid - September</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check that letters of reference have been submitted into CSDCAS</td>
<td>No later than November 1st</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Request letters again to be completed by November 15th</td>
<td>November 1st</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORDER FALL 2015 transcript from current university to CSDCAS when grades are posted</td>
<td>End of November</td>
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</table>

ECU will try to notify students by Mid - March. Email masterscsdi@ecu.edu with any questions.