

# COMMUNICATION DISORDERS, M.S.

## Program Description

The graduate program of the Department of Communication Disorders is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. The Department of Communication Disorders offers a Master of Science degree. Communication Disorders majors at the graduate level follow a prescribed program leading to eligibility for national certification in Speech-Language Pathology by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and licensure by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. Students wishing to be eligible for West Virginia certification as public school speech-language pathologists must also meet the requirements for such certification.

## Admission Requirements

Applicants should follow the admissions process described in this catalog.

The Department of Communication Disorders at Marshall University is participating in the central application system known as CSDCAS. Applicants will apply online using the CSDCAS application. To learn more about the CSDCAS application process, visit <http://capcsd.org/csdcas/students.php>.

In addition, applicants must also meet the requirements below All application materials, except transcripts, must be received by January 15. Transcripts must be received by CSDCAS by February 1.

1. An undergraduate degree (or pending degree) in Communication Disorders from an accredited institution is required. Students with deficits in undergraduate coursework, or those wishing public school certification, may need to complete additional requirements. Applicants must submit their most recent transcript, including grades for the fall semester that precedes the application deadline. Grades from the fall semester that precedes the application deadline may be submitted via an official or unofficial transcript, as official transcripts may not be available by the application deadline. If you will be taking Communication Disorders coursework after the date in which your transcript was submitted, provide this information, including course title(s), in your personal statement. Students admitted to the graduate program will be required to submit final transcripts following completion of the undergraduate degree.
2. An Overall and Communication Disorders Grade Point Average of at least 3.0 is required for full-time admission. A student may be admitted for provisional enrollment with an Overall or Communication Disorders GPA between 2.5 - 3.0 when the applicant possesses a degree and shows academic promise, but does not meet the criteria for full admission. Refer to the Graduate College for further explanation of "provisional enrollment."
3. All students must submit GRE Scores (within the last 5 years)
4. All students must submit a personal statement or letter of intent.
5. All students must submit three letters of recommendation from individuals who can comment on the applicant's academic and/or clinical performance and potential. At least one letter must be from

one of the applicant's classroom instructors in communication disorders.

All completed applications are reviewed on an ongoing basis in the spring semester each year.

Students admitted to the program who fail to enroll in the fall semester, as well as students already in the program who fail to enroll for a semester without prior permission from their academic advisor, are considered withdrawn from the program and not eligible for future enrollment.

*Note:* Applicants who are accepted to the graduate program will be simultaneously admitted as students in the Graduate College.

International applicants will be required to submit an official TOEFL score in addition to the other requirements described for consideration. The minimum TOEFL scores to be considered for admission must be a Total Score of 89 with the minimum section requirement of "Speaking" of 26. International applicants will have to complete their credential evaluation at an approved agency to prove that their education is equivalent to the U.S. undergraduate education. Documentation will need to be submitted with the application through CSDCAS. Please visit [www.marshall.edu/admissions](http://www.marshall.edu/admissions) (<http://www.marshall.edu/admissions/>) for more information and follow the instructions on the website of Marshall University Graduate College ([www.marshall.edu/graduate/admissions/international-admission](http://www.marshall.edu/graduate/admissions/international-admission) (<http://www.marshall.edu/graduate/admissions/international-admission/>))

## Program Requirements

A minimum of 35 graduate credit hours of academic coursework is required in addition to clinical practicum. All practicum necessary to complete certification requirements must be completed prior to graduation. Minimum practicum requirements include 24 hours of clinical courses. Students who are assigned clinical practicum are expected to fulfill the responsibilities of these assignments for the full semester. Students who fail to do so may not be assured of future assignments.

The student and advisor will develop a Plan of Study or blueprint for graduation requirements. The Plan of Study must be on file in the Graduate College office before the student registers for the 12th semester hour.

The Speech-Language Pathology specialty area exam of the ETS Praxis Series serves as the comprehensive examination required for all students. A score of 163 or better is considered passing and is required for graduation. In addition to the comprehensive examination, a candidate who writes a thesis will be required to pass an oral examination on the thesis.

Students should consult the department chair, their Communication Disorders academic advisor, and the clinic handbook regarding all academic and clinical requirements and standards specific to the program.