

MASTER'S IN COMMUNICATION DISORDERS & SCIENCES DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM

Thank you for your interest in the online Master's Degree Program in Communication Disorders and Sciences from California State University, Northridge. The online Master's program began in 1999. The program encompasses three years of course work and clinical practicum experience, three pediatric and two externships. Applications are due every September 1st and the program starts the following year around the 1st of May. **The deadline for applications for cohort 11 was September 1, 2009. Prospective students will be notified in January, 2010, of admission to the program, and classes for cohort 11 will begin May, 2010. Cohort 12 applications are due September 1, 2010. Students admitted to cohort 12, will begin coursework in May, 2011.** Due to difficulty in securing appropriate ASHA certified supervision for the five clinical practicums, we are no longer accepting applicants outside the United States.

This program is conducted completely online with no requirements for residency in the state of California. A new Easy App has been created and you will find the link to the application on the Home Page of our website at <http://exlweb.csun.edu/cds>. Please note: The Easy App site is available only for a few months prior to the application deadline for each cohort. The "Easy App" application fulfills the past requirement of submitting two separate applications: one to the CDS department and one to the university. Please follow all instructions on the application, and submit the filing fee and all required transcripts and testing scores to the appropriate departments as noted on the application. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed by the department.

The department requires a GRE or MAT, and students with a master's degree must also take the GRE or MAT. Test scores must be current within the last five years. The university requires the 50th percentile in either the Verbal or Quantitative subtest of the GRE. Communication Disorders and Sciences (CDS) students average 1040 in their GRE scores and the minimum MAT score is 570. The university also requires a minimum 2.5 undergraduate GPA; however, a 3.3-3.5 GPA in CDS coursework is advised. *Admission is very competitive.* Please follow instructions on the Easy App for submission of the test scores.

A student must have a bachelor's degree in order to apply. It does not have to be in Communication Disorders. However, a student must have 30 semester units of prerequisites completed before December 31, 2010, to apply for the next cohort. Proof of enrollment and/or completion of prerequisite courses must be included in your application by the September 1, 2010, deadline. It takes between 18–24 months to complete all the undergraduate pre-requisite coursework.

The prerequisites and the catalog descriptions are listed on the distance website. CSUN does not currently offer the pre requisite courses online. Please refer to www.gradschools.com or www.asha.org/edfind for information on colleges and universities that offer online courses. *We do not* offer individual classes online. This rigorous 3-year, 58-unit curriculum is a lockstep program. The cohort begins together, takes the courses together, and completes the program together. If you are unable to set aside a minimum of 25 hours per week, per course for studying, then this may not be the program for you. To find out more about the field of speech language pathology before starting this endeavor, review the American Speech-Language Hearing Association website at www.asha.org.

This is a self-support program. The current tuition cost for cohort 10 was approximately \$35,000 and is the same for everyone. Students may apply for financial aid. Information regarding financial aid can be found on our website or contact LaJuan Steels at Extended Learning at lajuan.r.steels@csun.edu.

Most of the students who enter the Masters Program are already working full time or part time at a clinic site. There are five clinics in the program, which require supervision by a CCC/SLP from the American, Speech, Language, and Hearing Association. Three of the clinics are typically done in a local school district. One of the externships is done in a local hospital or nursing home. The student is responsible for securing the pediatric clinical practicum sites and must assist in securing an adult site.

When you have a few moments, please review the "Prospective Students" tab on our very informative website: <http://exlweb.csun.edu/cds>. Also review the Cohort testimonials from our former students. If you have further questions after reviewing the website, please call us at 818/677-2803 or contact Elaine Saler at elaine.saler@csun.edu.

