

California State University, Fresno
Masters in Speech-Language Pathology
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. I am interested in your Speech Language Pathology graduate program. However, I do not have an undergraduate degree in SLP or CD. I have a B.A. in _____. What are my options?**

Please see attached “INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS WITH A BACHELOR’S DEGREE FROM ANOTHER FIELD”.

- 2. How many applications do you receive a year?**

It varies each **semester**, but we receive anywhere from 40 to 200 applicants, depending on the semester.

- 3. How many admission offers are given out?**

We generally admit approximately 20 students per semester (Fall and Spring)

- 4. What do you consider when reviewing applicants?**

We look at your GPA (see #5, below), GRE scores (see #6, below), 3 letters of recommendation, and your letter of intent. We want to feel confident that students who are accepted will be able to handle the academic demands of graduate level coursework and writing requirements. We also look for any volunteer or work experiences that might show leadership, good people skills, insight into working with individuals that have special needs, an ability to work with people from diverse backgrounds, or clinical potential.

- 5. What is the range of GPAs that you take in?**

This varies. In order to apply, a minimum 3.0 GPA is required for your overall GPA, last 60 units, and your major classes. The student’s GPAs for their last 60 units and for their major classes are calculated and used for admission consideration. Over the past few years, students who were admitted usually had GPAs in the 3.6 to 4.0 range.

- 6. Is there any minimum GRE score or average scores?**

We do not have a minimum GRE score requirement. Most students who get in have an average (Verbal and Quantitative combined) around 300, and we do prefer a 3 or higher for the writing score.

7. How long is the program?

It is a two year program which includes 4 semesters of coursework and 5 semesters of clinical practicum (one semester of practicum is done over the summer).

8. Can I attend the program part time?

The program is designed so that you move through as a member of a cohort. You are expected to take 3 courses (3 units each), plus your clinical practicum each semester. During your final two semesters, you will be completing your student teaching or medical externship, essentially working at those sites 4 or 5 days a week, then taking your classes three afternoons or evenings a week. We do not offer any kind of part time alternative to this schedule.

9. Which classes can count toward ASHA's physics or chemistry requirement?

The ASHA standard reads "Applicants must have knowledge in physical sciences, which must be acquired through coursework in physics or chemistry."

The intent is clearly related to gaining knowledge in the physical sciences. The class does not have to have a lab associated with it, but it does have to be in the area of physical sciences. It can be taken as a CR/NC class. I am hearing rumors about students wanting to count Chem classes aimed at scientific writing, or chemistry in marketing, or a physics class related to art and design, or other such classes. These clearly do not meet the intent of this standard. Please use good judgement and do not risk ASHA not accepting your course down the road. The acceptable classes at Fresno State are: CHEM 1A, CHEM 3A, & PHYSICS 10.

10. Can I use classes I took for my SLPA Certification as prerequisite courses?

Generally, courses taken for an SLPA program CANNOT be counted as prerequisite courses. There may be a single course - some kind of introduction or overview of Communicative Disorders that will count for up to 3 units of prerequisite credit, but other than that, the rigor and depth of content in SLPA courses does not compare to those taken as part of a BA program in SLP, and cannot be used for prerequisite credit.

Department web site: <http://fresnostate.edu/chhs/csds/>

On line Course Catalog: <http://www.fresnostate.edu/catalog/>

Division of Graduate Studies: <http://www.fresnostate.edu/academics/gradstudies/>

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE FROM ANOTHER FIELD

Thank you for your interest in our program. Generally, a bachelor's degree in speech pathology is required to apply to our graduate program. For students with a bachelor's degree *outside of speech pathology*, a variety of universities have prerequisite "bridge" programs so you can take the undergraduate prerequisites. Currently, Fresno State does not have a formal "bridge" program. However, there are a variety of online prerequisite programs, with new ones appearing. The list below is not a complete list of these programs and is not an endorsement of them. However, their graduate program, like ours, is accredited by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Therefore, they would be worth considering.

California State University Northridge
California State University, San Diego "SLP Essentials"
Utah State University
Idaho State University
LaSalle University
Longwood University
Sacred Heart University
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Florida
University of Nebraska, Kearney
University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire
University of Southern Mississippi
Western Kentucky University
Eastern New Mexico University

It is **strongly recommended** that applicants have a minimum of 30 units of prerequisite courses for consideration for full classified admission. The prerequisite program should include courses that cover the following topics:

1. Normal development and processes: speech and language development, anatomy and physiology of speech and hearing, neurology of speech and hearing, phonetics, speech and hearing sciences
2. Disordered processes and development: speech sound disorders, language disorders, voice and fluency disorders
3. Assessment procedures / Diagnostics
4. Treatment methods
5. Audiology
6. **In addition, ASHA requires a course in Physics or Chemistry, a course in Statistics, and 25 hours of documented clinical observation. These hours can be a combination of audiology and speech-language pathology, and must be signed off by an SLP or Audiologist who is ASHA Certified. See the attached *observation hours log* form.**

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There is also helpful information from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association at <http://www.asha.org/Students/Planning-Your-Education-in-CSD/>.

SLP PREREQUISITE TRACKING FORM

For each of the prerequisite areas listed below, please list any course(s) taken. Although a course in every area is not required, it is strongly recommended that applicants have a minimum of 30 units of prerequisite courses for consideration for full classified admission.

Generally, courses taken for an SLPA program CANNOT be counted as prerequisite courses. There may be a single course - some kind of introduction or overview of Communicative Disorders that will count for up to 3 units of prerequisite credit, but other than that, the rigor and depth of content in SLPA courses does not compare to those taken as part of a BA program in SLP, and cannot be used for prerequisite credit.

An introduction to Statistics course is required by ASHA.

A course in Physics or Chemistry is now required by ASHA. The ASHA standard reads "Applicants must have knowledge in physical sciences, which must be acquired through coursework in physics or chemistry." The intent is clearly related to gaining knowledge in the physical sciences. The class does not have to have a lab associated with it, but it does have to be in the area of physical sciences.

If your undergraduate degree is outside of speech pathology, please complete this form and turn it in with your departmental application. Thank you.

NAME: _____

Prerequisite Area	Course(s)	Units
Statistics (any course with "statistics" in the title is acceptable)		
Physics or Chemistry course		
Anatomy & Physiology of Speech & Hearing		
Neurology of Speech & Hearing		
Normal Speech & Language Development		
Speech & Hearing Science		
Phonetics		
Speech Disorders		
Language Disorders		
Audiology / Aural Rehabilitation / Audiology Lab		
Assessment / Diagnostic Procedures		
Treatment Procedures		
Other: Voice, Fluency, Organic Disorders, Observation, etc.		
Total Units		

