

University of Central Arkansas
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Master of Science Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How long is the program?

A: *The UCA CSD Master's Program in Communication Sciences and Disorders requires six consecutive semesters of full-time enrollment, consisting of 54 total semester-credit-hours.*

Q: When can I apply?

A: *The application portal (CSDCAS) opens by August 15th of each year. The deadline for application is January 15th, with the complete application verified by February 15th.*

Q: When will I find out if I am accepted into the program?

A: *The Admissions Committee will notify applicants of their status by the end of March each year.*

Q: When does the program begin?

A: *We only admit students once per year, and classes start in the fall semester, which begins in August.*

Q: When are classes held?

A: *Classes are held during regular business hours and at night.*

Q: Where are classes held?

A: *Classes are held on the UCA campus in Conway, Arkansas. There is no distance-learning option.*

Q: What kind of clinical experiences do students get?

A: *Students do not take clinical practicum their first semester. After that, they are assigned on-campus and/or off-campus clinical experiences managed by the UCA CSD Clinic Director.*

Q: Can I work while in the program?

A: *It is not recommended to work more than 10 hours per week while in the program. Students are expected to have in-person attendance for all academic and clinical requirements of the program.*

Q: My undergraduate degree is in CSD, but my undergraduate program did not offer some of the courses listed as prerequisites in the application portal. Will I be required to take additional coursework?

A: *For applicants who hold a bachelor's degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders or Speech-Language Pathology, names of courses from your institution may not match the names of our coursework at UCA. Read the descriptions of each required course and match your undergraduate course to the one that closely matches the content described.*

Q: I'm interested in getting a Master of Science in SLP, but my bachelor's degree is in an unrelated field. Can I still apply?

A: *If you have an undergraduate degree in a field other than speech-language pathology, communication disorders, or speech and hearing sciences, you'll need to complete 9 undergraduate pre-requisites before being eligible to apply for the program. UCA offers these courses and we also accept pre-requisites from other schools. For further information, see **UCA CSD Leveling Requirements** posted on our website.*

Q: What about the 25 required observation hours?

A: *ASHA requires 25 hours of guided observation. Many students do these as part of their undergraduate program. However, if you did not obtain these observation hours, you will be enrolled in a 1-semester-credit-hour graduate course during your first semester as a graduate student to obtain them.*

Q: If I take my leveling courses at UCA, am I guaranteed a spot in the graduate program?

A: *No. Students who take their leveling requirements at UCA are evaluated using the same criteria as all other applicants.*

Q: Can I take my leveling courses while I am in the UCA master's program?

A: *No. All leveling requirements must be completed prior to beginning graduate study.*

Q: Will clinical hours that I did as an undergraduate transfer to UCA?

A: *Yes, students will be allowed to transfer a maximum of 50 clinical hours from an undergraduate clinical experience.*

Q: I took a concurrent-credit course while I was in high school from a different university than I attended for my degree. The concurrent credit course is listed on my transcript from my current university. Do I still need to provide an official transcript from the university that gave the concurrent credit?

A: *Yes. We will need an official transcript from the university that provided the concurrent credits.*

Q: I received Advanced Placement credit for classes I took while in high school. Should I send my Advanced Placement test scores?

A: *No. Just make sure that you provide a transcript showing the credits awarded from the university that counted your AP scores as college credit.*

Q: I submitted my application to CSDCAS on January 15th deadline, but my transcripts aren't showing up on my CSDCAS account. I requested my transcripts in late December. Does this mean I've missed the deadline?

A: *Not necessarily. Applicants must have completed their application (which includes sending transcript requests to institutions where college credit was earned) and SUBMITTED their application by January 15th. That may mean that some transcripts have not arrived or have not been verified by CSDCAS. All applications must be VERIFIED by CSDCAS by February 15th in order to be considered for admission. We strongly suggest that you request transcripts as early in the application process as possible, as the Feb. 15th VERIFIED deadline will not be adjusted due to delays in processing and could lead to your application not being considered for admission.*

Q: I tried to submit my application at 11:10 pm on January 15th. The portal says it cannot be accepted because I missed the deadline. How is that?

A: *Submitted applications are due by 11:59 pm EASTERN STANDARD TIME. Please be aware and adjust accordingly for your time zone.*

Q: Where will I complete my clinical work?

A: *In our program, graduate students are not enrolled in practicum during their first semester. During the second through the third or fourth semesters of your program, you will be providing services in our on-campus clinic, supervised by UCA Faculty. The last two semesters will spent at off-campus clinical sites, as long as the student has successfully completed all previous coursework and clinical assignments.*

Q: May I go out of state for any of my practicum experiences?

A: *Possibly. Placing UCA students for practicum outside the state of Arkansas has become increasingly difficult in recent years due to changes in guidelines regulating health care and education. Out-of-state facilities may have required contractual elements that are not possible for us to meet, or these facilities may not be in agreement with our contractual requirements. However, we do have several students each year who are placed out-of-state for practicum (usually in their home state). The UCA Clinic Director will provide additional information to admitted students on a case-by-case basis regarding requesting out-of-state placements.*