Communication Sciences and Disorders

Part-Time/Online Graduate Program
(Updated November 2022)

Points of Pride

- UW System Teaching Excellence Award for our CSD Graduate Faculty (2019)
- Fully online post-bacc course sequence being taught for over 15 years—our online teaching pedagogy is second-to-none
- Our academic curriculum for online grad is matched to our residential grad program and fully-accredited by CAA (ASHA’s accrediting body)
- In 2023 we will graduate our 7th online grad cohort (so we’ve been doing this awhile now)
- Our residency week each summer with our online grads is filled with activity that is value-added
- Our online grads experience fantastic clinical sites across the nation to earn their 400+ clock hours
- Alumni from our online grad program are lead SLPs in amazing work settings (schools, hospitals, and more)

"Being an online graduate student at UW-Eau Claire has been an amazing experience that I will cherish forever. I have made lifelong friends who have helped me achieve something I have dreamed of for a long time. UW-Eau Claire has helped me achieve my dream of becoming a speech-language pathologist."

—Amy Edgemon (MS, 2019)
Pre-Req

- Bachelor’s degree

- 30-credit CSD undergraduate “core” of courses if the Bachelor’s degree is not in CSD or speech/language (you can apply to the grad program as long as you are close to being done with the leveling coursework)

- Minimum GPA: 3.25 CSD

- A “C” or higher on any CSD academic courses

- A “B” or higher on any clinical practicum experiences

How to Apply: CSDCAS Application

- Application on CSDCAS (look for it to open July/August)

- Three letters of recommendation (try to make sure at least one of these is from university faculty—these people need to be able to comment on how you will match up to the rigor of a CSD graduate program and someone who is not a CSD faculty member cannot necessarily make that argument)

- Write and submit your personal essay (letter of intent) addressing the prompts in CSDCAS

- Submit all transcripts from all undergrad/post-bacc courses (submit these by November 1—do NOT wait until fall grades are posted)

- Submit EVERYTHING by November 1 (letters of rec can come in during early November, but all file review will be done by December 10, so letters received after November may not be reviewed)
How to Apply: UW Application

- Application online: https://apply.wisconsin.edu/homepage
- Follow all instructions
- Pay fee
- Complete this process by November 1

What to Expect After Applying

1. Online interviews will be conducted with the top half of the applicant list in January. You will be contacted to set up your interview time by the middle of December.

2. Initial offers will be made to the first group of applicants the first week of February.

3. Movement from the waiting list tends to happen throughout February/March and even into April.

4. Final cohort completion should be done by the middle of April—at this point it will be quite unlikely you’d hear about being admitted. From time-to-time someone backs out later in April, but this is uncommon for our online grad program.
What is the Residency Requirement?

1. Three, one-week trips to UWEC are required (one time each summer). The first week of June (for year 1) and the first week of August (year 2 and year 3). No one should book travel for residency week until you receive official confirmation of the dates from the grad program coordinator (spring of each year).

2. These residency weeks are filled with team-building, time with hands-on equipment activity, and face-to-face competencies with faculty. This is not a period of time where you are doing clinical clock hours.

3. You incur all travel costs associated with residency weeks. Low-cost university housing is available.

What are the Costs of the Program

- Flat-rate tuition (currently at $707 per credit).
- Travel costs for residency weeks (variable).
- Textbooks.
- $100 one-time fee for your CALIPSO account (to track clock hours and other details).
- Personal technology needs (computer, internet, peripherals, etc.).
- Annual criminal background check (approximately $30 per year on average).
- Immunizations or immunization titer level checks (variable costs).

NOTE: You should be eligible for student loans and other financial aid since you will be enrolled in a minimum of six graduate credits per semester (i.e., half-time status). You can apply for scholarships and UWEC graduate assistantships as well.
The Clinical Practicum Requirements

- You will be required to earn 400+ direct client contact hours during a combination of years 2 and 3 of the program.
- You cannot start earning clock hours prior to May 1 of the first year of the program.
- You must complete at least one final placement (externship) the third spring of the program (usually on a full-time schedule).
- You must earn at least 100 clock hours in adult/medical services and a minimum of 100 hours working with children (usually in a public school).
- Direct client contact hours are different than “on site” hours. You will usually spend 2-3 times more hours on site than you will earn for direct client contact.
- You must take the lead role in finding placements in your preferred/potential geographic areas. (All clinical placements must be a minimum of 60 miles away from the UWEC campus.)

NOTE: Every online grad student’s clinical program will look slightly different and can be customized. The most important component is finding qualified SLPs to host/supervise your placements.
▪ If you need **post-bacc advising**:
  - Ms. Megan Figg (figgma@uwec.edu)
  - Ms. Brenda Locher (LOCHERBC@uwec.edu)

▪ If you have specific questions about our **online grad program**:
  - Ms. Angie Sterling-Orth (sterliaj@uwec.edu)
  - Ms. Brenda Locher (LOCHERBC@uwec.edu)