



# COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

## UW-EAU CLAIRE UNDERGRADUATE FACT SHEET

More than 25 million Americans have speech, language or hearing disorders that interfere with daily communication. The department of communication sciences and disorders educates students planning to become speech-language pathologists or audiologists and who will become specialists in diagnosing and treating communication problems. Professionals in communication sciences and disorders will work in a variety of employment settings with individuals of all ages. Communication disorders commonly encountered are articulation, fluency, voice and language disorders and hearing impairment.

Clients often have diagnosed medical or educational problems such as cleft palate, learning disabilities, brain damage, vocal abuse, mental retardation, behavioral disorders, stroke or cerebral palsy. Since communication is the most human characteristic and influences learning, working and interacting with others, a speech-language pathologist or audiologist improves the quality of life of a person with a communication disability. Specialists work with clients to develop their full potential as communicators. Speech-language pathologists and audiologists also are concerned with and study communication development and disorders so that better diagnostic and treatment procedures can be established.

### WHY STUDY COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS?

- It is an exciting helping profession that changes constantly as new discoveries are made.

- The job market is growing most rapidly with populations in the elderly and infant age ranges, but many jobs are available with school-age children and younger adults. Graduates are sought after by employers and valued for their competency. The reputation of this program is excellent.
- Although students enter the major with many of the following qualifications, these characteristics are enhanced through studying communication sciences and disorders: intelligence and common sense, desire to work with and help people, scientific curiosity, appreciation for individual differences, sense of humor, empathy, assertiveness, and good written and oral communication.

### UW-EAU CLAIRE FACTS AT A GLANCE

- Location: Eau Claire, Wis.; city pop. 64,000, metro. pop. 151,000
- Average enrollment: 10,500
- Undergraduates: 10,063
- Graduate students: 503
- International students: 124
- Multicultural students: 485
- Average men-women ratio: 2-to-3
- Students who spend at least a semester studying abroad: 24%
- Students doing undergraduate research with faculty/staff: 710+
- ACT composite average: 24+
- Average high school rank: 77%
- Average class size: 28
- Faculty-student ratio: 1-to-20
- Computers-student ratio: 1-to-9
- Student organizations: 224
- Walk across campus: About 10 minutes
- Nickname: Blugolds
- Colors: Navy and old gold

- Prepare for graduate studies. The master's degree is regarded by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association as the educational preparation needed for employment as a speech-language pathologist. Those with master's degrees are eligible for national certification and are considered to be fully qualified for employment in Wisconsin.
- Preparation for a variety of jobs. People with undergraduate degrees in communication sciences and disorders are well prepared to perform many types of jobs successfully, not just to function as speech-language pathologists and audiologists. Skills and knowledge developed through the study of this major assist individuals to function as effective parents and contributing citizens.

### THE EAU CLAIRE ADVANTAGE

- The master's degree program in speech-language pathology is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and approved by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.
- UW-Eau Claire has an excellent clinical facility with state-of-the-art technology on campus (the Center for Communication Disorders) and affiliation with many off-campus practicum sites where students gain experience working with clients.
- The local Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association provides professional and social interaction, a connection to a national student organization and service and leadership opportunities.

- Emphasis within the department is on preparation of undergraduate students for entry into graduate programs and on preparation of graduate students to become speech-language pathologists in all types of work settings, including schools and medical settings.
- Students have an opportunity at the undergraduate level to participate in a clinical practicum.
- Both doctoral- and master's-degreed faculty participate in clinical teaching within the department.
- Faculty advisers are accessible to students throughout their undergraduate and graduate careers.

### CAREER OPTIONS

Employment for a speech-language pathologist or audiologist may involve:

- Diagnosis and treatment of communication disorders
- Consulting with other professionals about clients
- Counseling clients and their families
- Writing diagnostic and progress reports
- Administration of clinical/ educational programs
- Researching communication development and disorders
- Teaching future professionals

### CAREER ENVIRONMENTS

- Hospitals
- Medical clinics and centers
- Preschool programs
- Public schools
- Universities
- Schools for the deaf
- Nursing homes
- Community and government agencies
- Private practices

### UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

The UW-Eau Claire department of communication sciences and disorders offers:

#### Majors

- Communication Sciences and Disorders – comprehensive major; requires no minor
- Communication Sciences and Disorders – standard major
- Master's degree – speech-language pathology

### HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATION

- Students who want to study communication sciences and disorders would benefit from course work in English composition, public speaking, foreign languages (Spanish or American Sign Language encouraged), natural sciences (biology and physics preferred), microcomputer operation and applications, psychology and sociology.
- Volunteer experiences that involve working with people, particularly disabled individuals, are encouraged.
- All students who enroll at UW-Eau Claire are required to have a minimum of 17 college preparatory units including:
  - 4 years of English (at least 3 composition and literature)
  - 2 years of a single foreign language
  - 3 years of math (algebra, geometry, 1 advanced college preparatory math)
  - 3 years of natural science
  - 3 years of social science (1 must be world or American history)
  - 2 additional units in the areas already mentioned or other academic areas

### FRESHMAN COURSE WORK

#### Sample First Year

#### FALL SEMESTER

COURSE#	TITLE	CREDIT
CSD 150	Introduction to Communication Sciences and Disorders	3
Engl 110	Introduction to College Writing General education electives	5 7

#### SPRING SEMESTER

COURSE#	TITLE	CREDIT
CSD 262	Phonetics: Theory and Application	2
Sped 200	Introduction to Special Education	3
	General education electives	10

#### Suggestion

If you are interested in this program, talk with an adviser in communication sciences and disorders as early as possible in your college career.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about our programs, contact:

#### COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

Human Sciences and Services  
 UW-Eau Claire  
 Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004  
 715-836-4186  
[www.uwec.edu/csd](http://www.uwec.edu/csd)

For more information about campus including costs, housing, admission requirements and tours:

#### ADMISSIONS

Schofield Hall 112  
 UW-Eau Claire  
 Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004  
 715-836-5415  
[admissions@uwec.edu](mailto:admissions@uwec.edu)  
[www.uwec.edu/admissions](http://www.uwec.edu/admissions)

