

# Master of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders

The Master of Science in communication sciences and disorders program is designed to prepare students to function independently as speech-language pathologists within the field of communication disorders. The residential program requires a two-year full-time commitment. The online program is part-time, and requires three years to complete.

By the end of the graduate program, a student can meet requirements for: The Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology; licensure in speech-language pathology; and the Department of Public Instruction license in speech and language pathology.

The purpose of the MS degree is to help students develop knowledge and/or competencies in several areas:

- Normal speech, hearing, swallowing and language development and behavior.
- Nature, evaluation and management in various work settings of the disorders of speech, hearing, language and swallowing in children and adults.
- Investigative procedures in communication sciences and disorders.

## Residential Program Coordinator:

CSDGraduateCoordinator@uwec.edu

## Online Program Coordinator:

CSDOnlineGraduateCoordinator@uwec.edu

## Why UW-Eau Claire

### Rankings / Reputation / Well-funded programs

Our graduates pass the PRAXIS before graduation and obtain employment by or shortly after graduation.

## Contact Info:

Communication Sciences +  
Disorders

Human Sciences and Services 112  
239 Water Street  
715-836-4186 | csd@uwec.edu

## Accreditation

The Master of Science program in speech-language pathology at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard, #310, Rockville, MD 20850, 800-498-2071 or 301-296-5700, and is approved by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

## Faculty Experts

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.

## Course Work / Pre-Professional Courses

The student must complete a minimum of 54 credits of graduate course work in communication sciences and disorders prior to earning the MS degree in CSD. A thesis is optional in the residential program. Those who write a thesis must complete an oral comprehensive examination about the thesis. Students who do not write a thesis must pass a comprehensive examination. Each student must complete two externships in the final semesters of their graduate program.

The Power of  AND

University of Wisconsin  
**Eau Claire**

# Master of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders (continued)

Required practicum experiences are planned to serve the needs and interests of students and to allow students to meet credential requirements. Students obtain a diverse clinical experience through the Center for Communication Disorders on campus and/or off-campus practicum sites. Under the supervision of qualified university personnel and on-site supervisors at affiliated practicum sites, students have opportunities to encounter clients ranging in age from infancy to the geriatric population and exhibiting all types of communication disorders. The affiliated practicum sites represent a wide variety of types including hospitals, clinics, community agencies, nursing homes, private practices and schools. Faculty members teach academic courses and supervise clinical practicum experiences within their areas of expertise.

## Special Admission Guidelines

### Online Program Applicants: State of Residency

Wisconsin is a SARA state (State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement) and the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire is a SARA-approved institution. "The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement is an agreement among member states, districts and territories that establishes comparable national standards for interstate offering of postsecondary distance education courses and programs. It is intended to make it easier for students to take online courses offered by postsecondary institutions based in another state." (<http://nc-sara.org/>) Although California is not a SARA-approved state at this time, UW-Eau Claire may currently accept students from CA. Important Notice to Students: If you are considering an online

academic program that leads to a professional license, it is highly recommended you contact the appropriate licensing agency in the state where you plan to apply for your license before beginning your academic program. SARA does not provide reciprocity for state professional licensing requirements. Academic programs and individual graduates must meet standards set by that state's licensure requirements in order for a graduate to be eligible for a license. The SARA provision for this requirement can be found on pg. 27 of the SARA Manual (Version 16.3) herin: <http://www.nc-sara.org/content/sara-manual>. The Communication Sciences Disorders graduate program at UW-Eau Claire prepares students for licensure in the state of Wisconsin. Students are responsible for obtaining information about licensure in any other state.

### Other Admission Guidelines

Apply early! The fact that a student has met the minimum criteria listed does not guarantee admission to the program. Enrollment in the graduate program is limited to a maximum number of students determined annually by the program faculty. In recent years, the number of students admitted annually to the residential program has been 16-18; approximately 20 students will be admitted to the part-time online program. Applications for admission to the online program are reviewed in late fall; applications to the residential program are reviewed each winter. Students begin their online program in the summer, while residential students begin their program in the fall semester following admission.

Students for the full-time residential program are encouraged to schedule a campus visit prior to reaching a decision about whether to apply. Visits should be scheduled through the graduate program coordinator ([CSDGraduateCoordinator@uwec.edu](mailto:CSDGraduateCoordinator@uwec.edu))

Students for the part-time online graduate program are also encouraged to visit campus, if possible. Contact the online graduate coordinator for arrangements ([CSDOnlineGraduateCoordinator@uwec.edu](mailto:CSDOnlineGraduateCoordinator@uwec.edu)).

Students must have a baccalaureate degree, preferably including a major in communication sciences and disorders. Completion of at least 30 semester credits from a specified list of communication sciences and disorders courses prior to entering the graduate program is required. Students who do not have the specific coursework required for the 30 CSD credits may apply as a second-degree seeking undergraduate student to complete any deficit coursework. Students must have an overall grade-point average of 2.75 or better in each post-secondary degree and a GPA of 3.25 or better in communication sciences and disorders course work. To be admitted to the program, students also must have a grade of B or better in each graded practicum experience.

Submit the following documents prior to **November 1** (online program) or **January 1** (residential program):

- Complete UW-Eau Claire application for graduate admission along with the application fee: <https://apply.wisconsin.edu/>.

# Master of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders (continued)

Application opens August 2.

- Complete all other application steps through the Communication Sciences and Disorders Centralized Application Services (CSDCAS): <https://portal.csdcas.org/csdcasHelpPages/before-applying/>. Application opens August 2. Follow instructions on the CSDCAS site for submission of the following:
- Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended.
- Official GRE scores sent directly from ETS. The CSDCAS institution code is 1743. The GRE must have been taken within the past 5 years.
- Personal essay
- Three letters of recommendation

See our departmental website for additional application information.

Residential students only may apply for assistantships:

<http://www.uwec.edu/Graduate/apply/assistfellowapp.htm>