Early Assurance Program in Communication Sciences & Disorders-
Speech-Language Pathology

The PennWest Communication Sciences and Disorders Department allows high-school seniors to apply for provisional acceptance to the PennWest University Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology (MSSLP) graduate program. Successful applicants will have guaranteed admission to the MSSSLP program pending maintenance of all undergraduate requirements and earning a Bachelor’s degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders from PennWest University.

_The Early Assurance Program is offered to highly motivated, academically talented incoming freshman. Students who qualify for this special track and remain in good academic standing are guaranteed an uninterrupted continuation into their graduate studies by securing a seat in the Master’s program._

**Admission Criteria**

Students wishing to apply to this program must meet the following criteria:

- Cumulative high school **GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.**
- A composite math and verbal **SAT score of at least 1050 or 20 ACT.** *This requirement has been waived*
- Submission of **personal essay** on why the student wants to be a speech-language pathologist and why they would make a good candidate for early acceptance to the graduate program.
- Application Deadline: Rolling
- Students must declare their major in Communication Sciences and Disorders at one of the PennWest campuses

**Maintaining Good Standing**

- Students will be required to meet specific standards and benchmarks throughout the course of their program, described below. Failure to meet these standards and benchmarks will result in “conditional” status for one semester, during which time a student will have the opportunity to address the concern. Should the student meet the required standards during the conditional semester, the student will return to good standing. Should the student fail to meet the required standards during the conditional semester, they will forfeit their guaranteed seat in the graduate program and will instead finish out under the provisions of the traditional program and complete the customary graduate application process.

**Students may consider three curricular options:**

- **Traditional 6-year cohort:** Completion of undergraduate degree in 8 semesters (four years), with a guaranteed seat in the (5-semester) master’s program (MSSLP).
- **5-year cohort:** Completion of undergraduate degree in 6 semesters (three years), with a guaranteed seat in the (5-semester) master’s program (MSSLP).
- **5 ½ - year cohort (Spring Start)***: Completion of undergraduate degree in 7 semesters (three and one-half years), followed by (5-semester) master’s program (MSSLP).