Early Admission Program in Communication Sciences & Disorders
(Speech-Language Pathology)

The PennWest Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) Department allows academically qualifying undergraduates to apply for early admission to PennWest’s Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology (MSSLP) program.* Successful undergraduates will secure 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.

*This is a separate program from the Early Assurance Program

The Early Admission Program is offered to academically successful undergraduates who meet the admission criteria. 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.

Please note: This is an invitational alternative to the traditional course of study that continues to be offered in the program.

Admission Criteria

Students qualifying for this program must meet the following criteria:

- Overall GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale.
- Second semester Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior, or Second semester Senior
- Recommended by a faculty member and voted by campus faculty majority.
- Students must be a CSD major at one of the three campus locations.

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. A description of the standards and benchmarks, as well as what would lead to conditional status, is provided below.

- **GPA:** Students will remain in good academic standing by maintaining an overall GPA of 3.3 (on a 4.0 scale).
  - If GPA is not maintained at any time, the student will be placed on conditional status. A student placed on conditional status has one academic semester to improve their overall GPA and/or CSD core GPA to required standards.

- **Interview:** Students in this program will complete a successful interview with faculty serving on the Early Admission Committee two semesters prior to completion of their undergraduate program (seniors excluded).
  - If a student does not successfully complete the progress interview, he/she will be placed on conditional status to improve upon identified areas of concern by the faculty panel.

- **Academic Advising:** Student must meet with their academic advisor at least once a semester to ensure requirements for continuation in the program are met.
  - Any student who fails to meet these requirements will be placed on conditional status for one academic semester during which they will be expected to fulfill this requirement.

Failure to maintain one or more of these requirements will result in dismissal from the Early Admission program, therefore forfeiting the guaranteed seat in the graduate program. The student may continue along the traditional undergraduate track as long as the minimum requirements for the customary program are met. The student will then complete the customary application process that accompanies the traditional program when applying to graduate school.

**Graduate school application process**

As a student in the Early Admission program, you are guaranteed a seat in the master’s program in speech-language pathology (pending requirement maintenance), however you will still be required to go through the application process *(fees and terms apply)* via an online central application site (CSDCAS).

Standardization of the application process is a requirement for our program’s accreditation through the Council of Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association.

Students wishing to opt out of the Early Admission program must contact their academic advisor.

*Participation in this program is a privilege. You have been invited to enroll in this program which is an opportunity only offered to a limited number of students.*