



Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's Degree Program in Communication Sciences & Disorders (Speech-Language Pathology)

The PennWest Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) Department enables qualified undergraduates, during the last two undergraduate semesters, to take graduate courses that apply to both their bachelor's and master's degrees. The accelerated option permits qualified degree seeking undergraduate students approved for this pathway to:

- Take and apply graduate degree credits as an undergraduate toward the Accelerated Bachelor's -to -Master's Degree Program.
- Apply up to 20% of graduate program credits and pay undergraduate tuition to satisfy the requirements of the undergraduate degree.

Qualified undergraduates in the accelerated program gain important benefits:

- Earn graduate credits while satisfying requirements for the bachelor's degree
- Save time and money while completing both bachelor's and master's degrees

Program Requirements

To qualify for the Accelerated Bachelor's -to -Master's Degree Program, undergraduate students must:

- Have obtained at least junior standing (minimum of 60 credits)
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5
- Apply for admission to graduate school and meet all admissions criteria (except for the earned bachelor's degree)
- Secure administrative approval following the recommendation of CSD faculty.

Students should also be aware that:

- The number of graduate credits registered per semester while still an undergraduate may not exceed 6, and the total number of credits registered in a semester may not exceed 18.
- Grades earned in graduate courses as part of the Accelerated Bachelor's -to -Master's Degree Program will be entered into the overall undergraduate and graduate GPA.
- Students enrolled in the Early Admission Program are also eligible to transition into this program.

- Students may be required to participate in a pre-selection interview with CSD faculty.
- Upon acceptance into the program students must meet with their assigned academic advisor to review and accept the requirements of the accelerated program.

Graduate school application process

Students in the Accelerated Bachelor's -to -Master's Degree Program are guaranteed a seat in the MSSLP program (pending requirement maintenance), but will still be required to complete the application process (*fees and terms apply*) via an online central application site (CSDCAS) prior to enrolling in master's level courses. **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.**

Graduate course recommendations*

Students may enroll in **up to 12 credits** of graduate level coursework. These courses include:

- CSD 6500 (1 credit) Intro to Clinical Methods-Diagnostics
- CSD 6600 (2 credits) Intro to Clinical Methods-Treatment
- CSD 6100 (3 credits) Speech Sound Disorders
- CSD 6200 (3 credits) Child Language Disorders: Birth to 5 **OR** CSD 6300 (3credits) Aphasia and other Adult Language Disorders
- CSD 6700 (3 credits) Fluency Disorders

*Acceptable alternative courses may be offered at the discretion of the faculty.

Students will substitute these courses for CSD Elective courses or General Elective courses in the undergraduate curriculum. In addition, students will meet with their assigned academic advisor at least once every semester to ensure appropriate mapping of the accelerated program curriculum.

Maintaining Good Standing

Students will be required to meet specific standards and benchmarks throughout the program as described below. Failure to meet these standards and benchmarks will result in removal from the program.

Grade Requirements

- Students must maintain a minimum overall GPA of 3.5 to remain in good standing in the program.
- A maximum of six credit hours of 'C' and 'C+' grades for graduate level courses will be accepted toward the MSSLP degree.

- All grades of 'C-' or below in graduate courses are unacceptable and will require students to repeat the graduate courses in which these grades are earned.
- Students who are unable to maintain a 3.5 overall GPA will be counseled out of the Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's Degree Program.

Failure to maintain the requirements listed above and dismissal from the Accelerated Bachelor's -to -Master's Degree Program will forfeit the guaranteed seat in the MSSLP Program. The student may continue along the traditional undergraduate track as long as the minimum requirements for the customary program are met. To re-apply to the MSSLP program, the student will complete the centralized application (CSDCAS). *Terms and fees apply.*

Student Acknowledgment

I confirm that the Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's Program has been explained to me by my advisor, and I understand the requirements to remain in good standing in the program.

Print Student's Name

Student's Signature

Date

March 1, 2024