



Communication Sciences and Disorders
Department of Communication Sciences and Professional Counseling
College of Education

Frequently Asked Questions

Admissions Related Questions

1. Can I apply to the program if I do not have a bachelor's degree in speech-language pathology?

Yes. A bachelor's degree in speech-language pathology is not required for admission. However, if you have a different educational background and you are admitted, you will be required to take prerequisite courses in speech-language pathology for one year. Therefore, your program will be three years as opposed to two years.

2. What is the typical GPA and GRE of students who are accepted?

Admission is based on a variety of factors including GPA (minimum requirement is 3.0), GRE (recommended combined score of 297 for both verbal and quantitative; 3.5 for Analytical Writing), personal statement, letters of recommendations, and interview. Students who are accepted into our program typically have GPAs ranging from 3.4 to 4.0; and combined Verbal and Quantitative GRE scores ranging from 290-320. However, student performance on these measures vary from one year to another.

3. Who should letters of recommendation come from?

Letter of recommendation should come from persons who can speak to your potential ability to succeed in graduate school and the field of speech-language pathology including your academic potential and performance, writing and oral communication skills, interpersonal skills and work ethic. At least two of the letters of recommendation should come from academic professors or instructors. The other letter may come from a professional reference such as a supervisor, volunteer coordinator, or a speech-language pathologist you have frequently observed.

4. What should be included in a personal statement?

There are many different ways to write a personal statement. There are also a multitude of resources for how to do so. Key topics might include your interest in pursuing speech-language pathology, and why you are a strong candidate to pursue graduate studies at the University of West Georgia. It is very important that your personal statement is well written and well organized.

5. How many people does the program typically accept?

The program typically accepts between 25 and 32 students each year to begin each fall semester of the academic year.

6. When can I expect to hear about the status of my application?

We typically contact students to schedule an interview between late February and mid-March.

7. When are potential candidates accepted?

Applicants are accepted by mid-April.

8. Can I visit the campus prior to the interview?

You may contact the Dean's Office at coelearn@westga.edu (678)839-6570 to schedule a tour of the College of Education and the Comprehensive Community Clinic. To schedule a visit to University of West Georgia, go to www.westga.edu/visit and sign up for a daily campus tour.

Program Related Questions

1. How is a two- or three- year track determined once I am accepted into the program?

After you are accepted, the faculty advisors review your transcripts to determine if you will be on a two- or three- track and advise you in the summer prior to the beginning of fall semester. In some cases, you may be on a two- year track but still be required to take some additional pre-requisite courses.

2. What time of day do classes and clinic usually take place?

Classes are typically held/taught during the day with some evening classes. Your first year clinical experiences will be scheduled at different times as you will rotate through a diversity of settings including Pre-K speech and language intervention, skilled nursing facility, and our on-campus clinic. In your second year, you will have full- time and part-time externships.

3. Is this an online program and do you have online classes?

This is a fully face- to- face program. You may have some hybrid courses and an occasional online course but you can expect to meet face-to-face for the majority of your classes.

4. Can I continue working during this program?

Your decision to work during your graduate studies is a personal choice. However, this is a full time graduate program. During your first year, you may be required to be on campus 3-5 days per week. During your second year, you may participate in several full-time internships.

5. Are study abroad opportunities available?

We are pleased to offer a collaborative study abroad experience to Ecuador during spring break.

6. Are research opportunities available?

There are opportunities to participate in research with faculty. These may or may not be funded opportunities. Students who are admitted to the program might consider contacting individual faculty members to learn more about these opportunities.

7. How much travel is involved in clinic and externship placements?

There will be some local travel required for your first year clinical experiences. For your second year clinical externships, you will be required to travel longer distances, based upon available clinical sites. The Office of Field Placement makes every effort to place you within 50 miles of your provided home address.

8. Can externships be out of state?

Externships completed in the second year of the program must be within a four-hour driving distance to the Carrollton campus. In addition, students in their second year must be prepared to drive to campus to attend classes and all required meetings.

9. Can I transfer graduate credit or other credits following the completion of my bachelor's degree?

The graduate school allows for up to 6 hours of graduate coursework to be transferred from another institution. However, graduate students who are attending another program must go through the full application process prior to being admitted to our program.