Communications Disorders
College of Education and Human Services

Degree Benefits
The communication disorders program, accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) of the American Speech, Language and Hearing Association (ASHA), provides undergraduate students with a broad understanding of the scientific bases of normal speech and hearing processes and the diagnostic and rehabilitation procedures necessary to work with individuals who have communication problems. This degree is the first step in becoming a certified speech-language pathologist (SLP). The B.S. in Communication Disorders (CMD) is a pre-professional degree program. Students should be aware that they are preparing for future graduate training before employment as an SLP is possible. It is important to maintain a grade-point average of 3.0 because few, if any, graduate programs will accept less. Some students choose not to study beyond the B.S. level and seek employment without a master’s degree in a related field. A B.S. in Communication Disorders is a natural springboard into many other professions.

Job Options
Job opportunities are numerous and they are expected to grow even further for two reasons: (a) many of the SLPs who began their careers in the 1970s are ready to retire, opening up many current positions, and (b) the need for new positions is great because of changes in patient populations. Specifically, the younger population has a growing incidence of head, neck and brain injuries that causes speech and language disorders, and the aging population is more susceptible to hearing loss, “strokes,” brain pathology and other communication disorders. At the master’s level, the student may choose between two professional tracks: the health care track—working in hospitals, clinics, rehabilitation centers, home-care companies, long-term care facilities with infant through geriatric patients; or the educational track—working in public, private, and special schools, with preschool and school-aged children who have learning problems, autism, birth defects, behavioral disorders, speech and language delays, or sensory limitations. The graduate student will complete two externships, one in a healthcare setting and another in the educational settings. An overall GPA of 3.0 is the pre-requisite for enrollment in ANY clinical experience. An education certification track is available at the graduate level only. Students wanting Pennsylvania certification must complete the required education courses, pass the National Teacher Exams (PRAXIS), and successfully complete the CMD graduate program.

Program Objectives
• Understanding of basic acoustical, anatomical, neurological, and speech, language and hearing development.
• Knowledge of various disorders affecting speech and language.
• Awareness of instruments and procedures available to assess speech and language disorders and the ability to select and use such instruments correctly.
• Development of skills to effectively perform therapeutic procedures.
• Successful completion of three credits of college level math and three in statistics.
• Current Act 48 (criminal record) and Act 151 (Child Abuse History) clearances.
These requirements must be made by the time you earn 65 credits.

University Resources
At Cal U, we believe it is important for the bachelor-level student to experience “hands-on” clinical contact early in the program. These hands-on experiences include working in the department’s Learning and Language Center program to offer a developmentally appropriate curriculum for 3- to 5-year-old children in a classroom setting; assisting in the provision of diagnostic and therapeutic services in the University Speech and Hearing Clinic; and assisting in the department’s audiology clinic, where comprehensive hearing evaluations are provided. Excellent classroom and clinical features are a program asset. The department enjoys ample space for study, research and therapy. Both a large clinic and a modern preschool are physically located within the department. Students have the opportunity to join the local chapter of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA).

Career Objectives
Career opportunities include working as a speech-language pathologist in public and non-public schools, clinics, rehabilitation centers or hospitals, and private practice. The theoretical and practical background of Cal U’s graduates is outstanding, and their placement record reflects this training.

Cal U Advantages
The communication disorders program provides a broad understanding of the needs of individuals with communication disorders. The department provides clinical services for individuals with communication disorders. Students observe and/or assist in diagnostic evaluations and therapy programs. The work includes experience with individuals ranging from birth to adulthood. As freshmen, students are gradually included in the clinical program. Clinical responsibilities increase proportionately with advancement. Advanced undergraduates participate as assistant clinicians in the campus clinic.

Bachelor of Science in Education
Communications Disorders—121 Credits
The following eight-semester schedule of courses provides a recommended framework for completing this program of study in four years. Students must complete a minimum of three credits in CMD 401 Clinical Practicum. To ensure that they are making satisfactory academic progress, students consult with their faculty advisers to ensure that they complete necessary prerequisites and required courses in sequence, and complete a minimum of 15 credits each semester.
# COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

## Freshman Year

### First Semester ................................................................. 16 credits
- CMD 100 Survey of Speech Pathology ........................................ 3 crs.
- CMD 108 Nature of Language .................................................... 3 crs.
- ENG 101 English Composition I .................................................. 3 crs.
- UNI 100 First Year Seminar ..................................................... 1 cr.
- General Education/Required/Related ........................................ 3 crs.
- GenEd/Health & Wellness ....................................................... 3 crs.

## Second Semester .............................................................. 14 credits
- CMD 105 Language and Speech Development .......................... 3 crs.
- CMD 203 Phonetics .................................................................. 3 crs.
- CMD 220 Communication Across Lifespan ............................... 4 crs.
- Physics OR Chemistry Course* ............................................... 3 crs.
- CMD 400 Clinical Practicum .................................................... 1 cr.

## Sophomore Year

### Third Semester .............................................................. 16 credits
- CMD 221 Speech Science ......................................................... 3 crs.
- Any Fine Arts Course ............................................................. 3 crs.
- CMD 400 Clinical Practicum .................................................... 1 cr.
- PSY 100 General Psychology .................................................. 3 crs.
- EDU 350 Supporting the English Language Learner ................ 3 crs.
- Mathematics & Quant Lit ....................................................... 3 crs.

### Fourth Semester ............................................................ 15 credits
- CMD 216 Articulation .............................................................. 3 crs.
- CMD 300 Speech Pathology I ..................................................... 3 crs.
- CMD 310 Anatomy and Physiology .......................................... 3 crs.
- Psy 208 Educational Psychology ............................................. 3 crs.
- Biology Course* ....................................................................... 3 crs.

## Junior Year

### Fifth Semester ............................................................ 15 credits
- General Education/Required/Related ....................................... 3 crs.
- ESP 210 Special Education Foundations and Collaboration .... 3 crs.
- CMD 301 Speech Pathology II .................................................. 3 crs.
- Statistics Course .................................................................... 3 crs.
- CMD 305 Intro to Audiology .................................................... 3 crs.

### Sixth Semester .............................................................. 15 credits
- CMD 306 Acoustic/Psychoacoustic .......................................... 3 crs.
- CMD 320 Assesses Speech and Language ................................. 3 crs.
- CMD 322 Tech Writing/Health/Education ................................. 3 crs.
- EDU 333 Technology Education .............................................. 3 crs.
- Any American or British Literature Course ............................ 3 crs.

## Senior Year

### Seventh Semester ........................................................ 15 credits
- CMD 350 Sign Language & Braille .......................................... 3 crs.
- CMD 321 Common Organic Disorders ..................................... 3 crs.
- Elective .................................................................................... 3 crs.
- EDU 310 Teaching in Multicultural Society ............................. 3 crs.
- Free Elective ............................................................................ 3 crs.

### Eighth Semester ............................................................... 15 credits
- CMD 400 Clinical Practicum (LL Center) ................................. 3 crs.
- CMD 450 Intro to Clinical Procedures ..................................... 3 crs.
- Any General Education Options ............................................. 3 crs.
- PHI 307 Medical Ethics .......................................................... 3 crs.
- Free Elective ............................................................................ 3 crs.

*The student must complete ONE biology course and ONE physics OR chemistry course. Of the two courses, only ONE of the science courses (student’s choice) is required to have a lab.

## Program Contact Information

Contact the Department of Communication Disorders by phone at 724-938-4175.

## Department Website

www.calu.edu/academics/programs/communication-disorders

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### ABOUT US

California University of Pennsylvania is a proud member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. Located in the borough of California, just 35 miles from Pittsburgh, Cal U serves about 8,200 undergraduate and graduate students.

- Cal U's main campus houses academic buildings, dining and recreation facilities, and six suite-style residence halls.
- Cal U's upper campus includes the Vulcan Village apartments, athletic facilities at Roadman Park, and space for student meetings and outdoor recreation at SAI Farm.
- Cal U Global Online is the University's virtual campus, offering degree and certificate programs 100% online.

### FINANCIAL AID

For information on student loans and undergraduate scholarships, visit www.calu.edu or call 1-888-412-0479.

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California University of Pennsylvania is an academic community dedicated to the ideals of justice, fairness and equal opportunity for all. In compliance with federal and state laws, the University is committed to providing equal educational and employment opportunities for all persons without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, ancestry, sexual orientation or status as a disabled or Vietnam era veteran. The University will not tolerate racial, ethnic or sexual discrimination. Sexual harassment is considered by law to be a form of sexual discrimination and is, therefore, unacceptable. Direct equal opportunity and affirmative action inquiries or complaints to the Special Assistant to the President for Equal Employment and Educational Opportunity (EEOC), Office of Social Equity, South Hall 112, 724-938-4014. Direct inquiries regarding services or facilities accessibility to the ADA/504, Compliance Officer, Office of Student Development and Services, G S, 52 Carter Hall, 724-938-4056. Direct Title IX inquiries to the Senior Women's Administrator/Title IX Coordinator, Department of Athletics, Hamer Hall 248, 724-938-4351.

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**Questions about Admissions?**

Office of Admissions
California University of Pennsylvania
250 University Ave.
California, PA 15419-1394

Phone: 724-938-4404
Toll-free: 888-412-0479
Fax: 724-938-4564
E-mail: inquiry@calu.edu

**FINANCIAL AID**

For information on student loans and undergraduate scholarships, visit www.calu.edu or call 1-888-412-0479.

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**Cal U** is a proud member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

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Policies and Procedures: Note that the policies and procedures described above may be reviewed and revised at any time. This fact sheet should be used as an informational guide. For details on current policies and procedures, contact the Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs at 724-938-4407.

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