

WHY STUDY COMMUNICATION DISORDERS & SCIENCES AT EIU?

A CAREER IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

A Masters Degree in Speech-Pathology is required to work as a speech-language pathologist (SLP) and a clinical doctorate is required for audiology.

SLPs are prepared to work with individuals with communication disorders in early intervention, all school settings, private clinics, home health care, hospitals, and long-term care facilities.

Job opportunities expected to grow by 23% between 2010 and 2020. EIU students have 100% employment after grad school often with multiple job offers.

Median salary in 2014 for beginning SLPs with 4-6 years of experience was \$51,000 for 9-month education settings and was \$70,000 for a 12-month position in health-care settings.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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CLASSES

- ◆ Undergraduate program sequence prepares students for graduate study in speech pathology or audiology
- ◆ Rigorous but functional classes taught by faculty who worked as SLPs and who make teaching their first priority
- ◆ “Open-Door” policy—easy to stop by and ask a faculty member a question. Tutoring in CDS courses often available from graduate assistants
- ◆ Seats in CDS courses guaranteed; coursework foundation is good no matter where you go to graduate school
- ◆ Structured/sequenced curriculum to optimize success;
- ◆ Independent study opportunities to explore specific interests in CDS

CLINICAL EXPERIENCES AS AN UNDERGRADUATE

- ◆ Full semester structured clinical shadowing experience in EIU clinic. Small group teaching in 3900 course and participate in meetings and planning with clinician and clinical supervisor
- ◆ Treat your own client for a full semester in EIU clinic and be supervised in a 1;1 setting by an EIU clinical faculty member if you attend EIU as an undergrad for 3 or 4 years
- ◆ Shadow a diagnostic case and present in capstone course

CDS FACULTY MEMBER AS YOUR ADVISOR

- ◆ A faculty member gets to know you in their role as your advisor
- ◆ Faculty give advice about minors, service learning opportunities, summer work suggestions, study strategies, study abroad options, graduate school applications, and general guidance as needed

CDS HONOR'S PROGRAM AND OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

- ◆ Go out to the schools or other clinical settings and assist faculty with research as part of an independent study
- ◆ Opportunity to work on a individual research project for an honor's thesis with a faculty mentor over a 2-year period. Present at state and national conferences

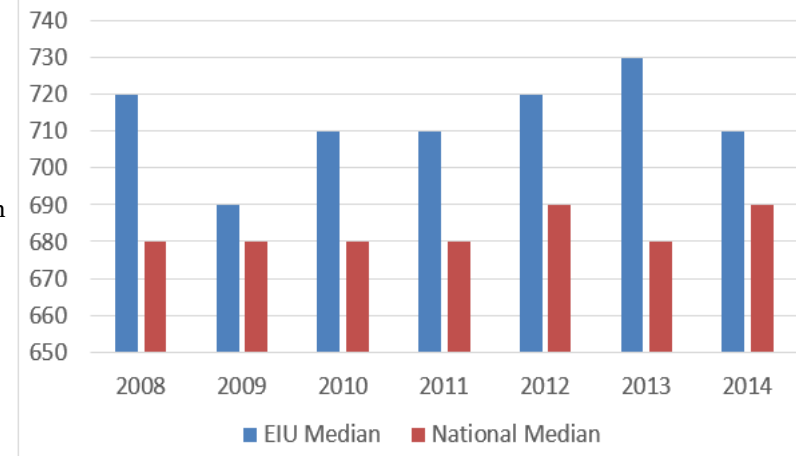
STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES

- ◆ CDS faculty-led study abroad usually offered in May
- ◆ CDS faculty advisors can help you find other study abroad opportunities such as spring break, summer, or full semester in universities abroad with speech-pathology programs

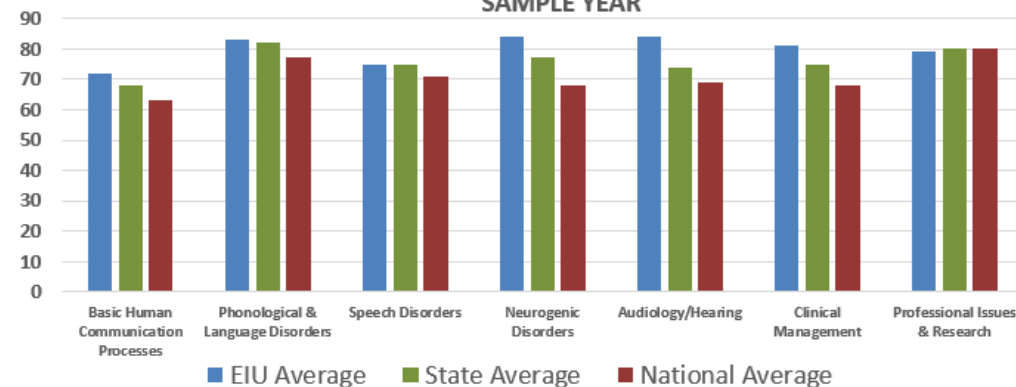
EXCELLENT OUTCOMES

- ◆ Great acceptance rates to graduate school for students who attend EIU for 3 or 4 years (see back)
- ◆ High student satisfaction with program in senior and graduate student surveys
- ◆ Scores on National Praxis Exam for Speech-Language Pathology well above state and national averages (see charts)
- ◆ Employers and internship supervisors have high praise for EIU graduates' preparation

SPEECH PATHOLOGY PRAXIS EXAM SCORES
EIU COMPARED TO NATIONAL MEDIAN



AVERAGE PERCENT ACCURACY ON SECTIONS OF SLP PRAXIS EXAM FOR
SAMPLE YEAR



CONSIDER SPENDING 3 or 4 YEARS IN CDS AT EIU

3 OR 4 YEARS IN CDS AT EIU

	FALL	SPRING	ADVANTAGES
YR 1 or 2	CDS 2000 INTRO CDS 2500 ANATOMY	CDS 2100 PHONETICS CDS 2200 LANGUAGE ACQUISITION CDS 2800 SPEECH SCIENCE	<p>If bringing in college credit, begin CDS sequence in Year 1. If you will be here 4 years and want time to “settle in” with gen ed courses, take CDS 2000 Intro in Year 1 and begin CDS sequence in year 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ CDS courses spread out/not more than 3 in one semester ◆ Clinical shadowing AND individual client in EIU clinic ◆ Plenty of time in program for a variety of “extra-learning” experiences that make graduate school application stronger such as Honor’s Program, Independent Studies, Service Learning, Minors, or Study Abroad ◆ Faculty know you well prior to grad school application instruction from the 3000 & 4000 level courses, clinical experiences, and multiple years of advisement ◆ Data collected over a 5-year period indicate 80% students
YR2 or 3	CDS 3100 PHONOLOGICAL DISORDERS CDS 3200 LANGUAGE DISORDERS CDS 3700 EVALUATION	CDS 3500 NEUROLOGY CDS 3900 CLINICAL TECHNIQUES CDS 4810 SIGN LANGUAGE	
YR 3 or 4	CDS 4900 CLINIC CDS 4300 AUDIOLOGY	CDS 4815 AAC CDS 4350 AURAL REHAB CDS 4600 CDS CAPSTONE SEMINAR	

2 1/2 YEARS IN CDS AT EIU

	FALL	SPRING	PROS and CONS
YR 1/2		CDS 2000 INTRO CDS 2100 PHONETICS CDS 2200 LANGUAGE ACQUISITION CDS 2800 SPEECH SCIENCE	<p>If at Junior College, could you begin at EIU in Spring then finish associates degree in summer or look into reverse credit option?</p> <p>CONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Heavy CDS coursework in first two semesters ◆ Course sequence less optimal with Anatomy after Speech Science ◆ Would not have opportunity for university or departmental honors program <p>PROS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Would have the opportunity for individual undergraduate clinic, complete 3900 before applying to grad school ◆ Would have grades from 3000-level CDS disorders coursework prior to applying to graduate school (applying in last fall– applications due Jan for next summer or fall grad school start)
YR2	CDS 2500 ANATOMY CDS 3100 PHONOLOGICAL DISORDERS CDS 3200 LANGUAGE DISORDERS CDS 3700 EVALUATION	CDS 3500 NEUROLOGY CDS 3900 CLINICAL TECHNIQUES CDS 4810 SIGN LANGUAGE	
YR 3	CDS 4900 CLINIC CDS 4300 AUDIOLOGY	CDS 4815 AAC CDS 4350 AURAL REHAB CDS 4600 CDS CAPSTONE SEMINAR	

2 YEARS IN CDS AT EIU

	FALL	SPRING	DISADVANTAGES
YR 1	CDS 2000 INTRO CDS 2500 ANATOMY	CDS 2100 PHONETICS CDS 2200 LANGUAGE ACQUISITION CDS 2800 SPEECH SCIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ No individual clinical experience ◆ Very heavy CDS coursework in year 2 ◆ Graduate school application filled out during Fall of Year 2 at EIU. Faculty have no 3000/4000-level disorder coursework to comment about academic aptitude for grad school. Faculty advisor knows you less well after only meeting you a couple times prior to grad school application ◆ No time in schedule for the extra-learning experiences ◆ Data over 5-years indicates 37% acceptance rate into SLP grad programs, MORE accepted on second attempt a year later because 3000-4000 grades and 3900 can be commented on in application
YR2	CDS 3100 PHONOLOGICAL DISORDERS CDS 3200 LANGUAGE DISORDERS CDS 3700 EVALUATION CDS 4300 AUDIOLOGY	CDS 3500 NEUROLOGY CDS 3900 CLINICAL TECHNIQUES CDS 4810 SIGN LANGUAGE CDS 4815 AAC CDS 4350 AURAL REHAB CDS 4600 CDS CAPSTONE SEMINAR	

COMPETITIVE GRADUATE SCHOOL ADMISSION– HOW TO INCREASE YOUR ODDS OF ACCEPTANCE

- ◆ **Academic Aptitude—Grades Matter.** Cumulative GPA for every college class no matter where you took the class. Major GPA for CDS courses. Consider at least the 2 1/2 or 3 -Years in CDS options so that you can spread out your CDS courses and have sufficient study time to get the best grades possible.
- ◆ **Letters of Recommendation Matter.** Small class size, clinical supervision, and faculty advising allows faculty to get to know students. Participate in class, show your critical thinking skills. Seek out extra learning opportunities inside and outside of courses.
- ◆ **Research Matters** (for some universities). Participate in the Departmental Honor’s Program and complete and undergraduate thesis. Participate in research as an independent study. Present research findings at state or national conferences.
- ◆ **Clinical Aptitude Matters.** Shadow a client for a whole semester, treat another client for a whole semester. Clinical instructors are a great source for letters of recommendation. Seek out other service learning and work experiences with special needs populations.
- ◆ Consider Minors/Double Major, Study Abroad, GRE test preparation.
- ◆ Show Evidence of Leadership/Ability to Manage Time/ Responsibility/Commitment.

WHAT ELSE CAN I DO WITH AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IN CDS?

Although you must have a master’s degree to work as an SLP or a clinical doctorate to work as an Audiologist, there are a variety of jobs that graduates may obtain with a bachelor’s degree in CDS with certain elective courses. These include a Developmental Therapist in Early Intervention, Audiology Assistant, Medical Chart Reviewer for Insurance Companies/Rehabilitation Benefits Coordinator, Group Home Manager, etc. You can also go on to graduate school in other educational or medical fields.