



WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

GRADUATE STUDIES FACT SHEET

COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

THE DEPARTMENT

In 1923 WCU became the site of one of the first speech clinics in the United States. This led to the creation of the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology in 1972, and the development of a master's program in the mid 1970s. In 1983 the department's name was changed to Communicative Disorders. In 2012 the department's name was changed to Communication Sciences and Disorders to reflect the program's commitment to a scientific basis for clinical management. The graduate program in speech-language pathology was first accredited in 1994 by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

THE PROGRAM

The M.A. in communicative disorders provides students with the academic and clinical practicum experience required to earn the American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA) Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP).

Preparation for Pennsylvania teacher certification is also a part of the curriculum. Depending on a student's undergraduate background and on updated requirements established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), additional courses may be required.

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES

West Chester University is set apart from many other graduate programs in communication sciences and disorders for the following reasons:

- Option of part-time study
- On-campus Speech and Hearing Clinic
- The department maintains a clinic where students can gain professional

and practical experience concerning assessment and treatment of communication sciences and disorders.

- Thesis option
Students have the option of completing a research thesis as part of their capstone experience.
- Affiliation sites
- Excellent medical and educational affiliation sites are available throughout eastern Pennsylvania and the Delaware Valley.
- Timely course work completion
- Students can complete the course work for this degree program, including Pennsylvania teacher certification, in a two-year period of full-time enrollment or a three-year period of part-time enrollment. Two off-campus clinical affiliations (medical and educational settings) are included in the program.

THE CURRICULUM

The program consists of 63 semester hours, including 36 semester hours of core courses and 27 additional semester hours of clinical practicum and affiliation. The specific courses and semester-hour allocations are available in the Graduate Catalog, which can be accessed through the University's Web site, www.wcupa.edu/.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should submit the following materials to the Office of Graduate Studies and Extended Education:

- Completed graduate application, including 500-word goals statement (apply online at www.wcupa.edu/grad)
- Completed supplemental application form showing an undergraduate

background of at least 30 semester hours related to communication sciences and disorders. This form is available on the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders' Web site.

- Submit a structured vita based on guidelines provided by the department (available from CollegeNet through WCU's online application process or from the download at http://wcupa.edu/_academics/healthsciences/commdisorder/).
- Official academic transcript(s) from all colleges and universities attended
- Two letters of recommendation
- Scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). The average GRE scores received by previous applicants who were admitted to the program are provided on the department's Web page in the FAQ section of the **Graduate Program** tab: www.wcupa.edu/_academics/healthsciences/commdisorder/MADegree/cdgradfaq.asp/.

For admission, applicants must demonstrate excellent communication skills in a written goals statement.

All admissions materials must be received by the Office of Graduate Studies and Extended Education by February 15 of each year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Office of Graduate Studies and Extended Education
McKelvie Hall
102 West Rosedale Avenue
West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2943

Fax: 610-436-2763

E-mail: gradstudy@wcupa.edu

LEARN MORE

Web: www.wcupa.edu/grad
Visit: www.facebook.com/wcugrad
Or contact the department:

Write: Dr. Mareile Koenig, Graduate
Coordinator
Department of Communication
Sciences and Disorders
201 Carter Drive
West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-3218
E-mail: mkoenig@wcupa.edu
Web: www.wcupa.edu/_academics/healthsciences/commdisorder/

The Graduate Catalog is available online at www.wcupa.edu/_information/officialdocuments/graduate.catalog/.

ABOUT GRADUATE STUDIES

West Chester University offers high-quality graduate degrees in more than 70 disciplines or areas of study, as well as certificate and certification programs. The graduate studies program has grown remarkably since its introduction in 1960. West Chester University's program is the largest within the

14 institutions in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education enrolling more than 2,100 graduate students.

Programs can be taken on a part-time basis, and most of the graduate classes are scheduled during late afternoons and evenings for the benefit of in-service teachers and other employed persons.

ABOUT WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

A regional, public institution, West Chester University of Pennsylvania offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degrees, as well as certification and certificate programs, in more than 100 subject areas. As the second largest member of the State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating back to the 19th century, West Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School for the purpose of training teachers for the Commonwealth's newly established

public schools. In 1960, West Chester State Teachers College expanded its programs to include liberal arts and graduate degrees and, as a result, dropped "Teachers" from its name. In 1983, West Chester State College became one of the 14 institutions in the State System of Higher Education. Along with its university status, the school acquired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs.

Today, more than 15,400 graduate and undergraduate students, as well as 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus. Situated in the Borough of West Chester, the campus is a picturesque mix of Gothic, Victorian, and modern architecture with pleasant, tree-shaded walks.

Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor, West Chester University is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington, Del. The campus is convenient to major cultural institutions, recreational activities, and commercial businesses, many of which provide internship opportunities for WCU's students.

