

Program Revision Request

Request: Addition of Direct and Early Admit Options into the CDS Graduate Program to Coincide with the Accelerated Graduate Program

Rationale: This program revision request incorporates two additional options for being admitted into the competitive graduate program in Communication Disorders and Sciences. By providing the option to be directly admitted into the graduate program, CDS will be able to recruit and retain high-achieving first-year college students who will then benefit from direct mentoring, intentional advising, and cost savings in not having to pay to apply to multiple programs. By providing the early admit option, CDS will be able to retain highly qualified undergraduates in the program who will then benefit from cost savings in not having to apply to multiple programs. Both direct and early admit options will also allow these students to utilize shared graduate credit towards their undergraduate degree, if appropriate.

Effective Date: Fall 2023

Approvals:

Communication Disorders and Sciences Curriculum Committee: 3/1/2023

CHHS Curriculum Committee: 3/30/2023

CGS: _____

CDS Direct Admit Graduate Program

Freshman Direct Admit to EIU CDS Graduate Program

Students with an interest in speech-language pathology who apply to EIU as high school students and are admitted to EIU (as full-time or part-time students) may be accepted into the CDS Direct Admit Graduate Program if they meet the following admission criteria:

- They have a 3.75 high school cumulative GPA (on a 4.0 scale).
OR
- They have a high school cumulative GPA of 3.5 to 3.74 or are in the upper 10% of their high school graduating class AND have an SAT of 1230+ or ACT composite of 26+.
AND
- They specify CDS as their major either on their EIU Application or by first day of classes at EIU.

Meeting these criteria does not guarantee automatic admission to the program. Admission to the Freshman Direct Admit Program is competitive.

Maintenance of Direct Admit Status

Students admitted to the CDS Direct Admit Graduate Program must meet the following criteria to continue in the program:

- They must enroll in at least two 2000-level EIU CDS courses in the year after high school to maintain direct admit status. If an accelerated 3-year bachelor's degree plan with 5-year bachelor's/master's combination plan is desired, then 4 of 5 required EIU 2000 level courses must be completed in the year after high school.
- They must have maintained a major and cumulative 3.5 GPA upon completion of all 2000-level and 3000-level CDS academic courses.*
- They must have met minimum requirements for the Essential Professional Functions in Undergraduate Coursework after completing all 3000-level CDS courses.*

The Graduate Admissions Committee will review status of all candidates in the Direct Admit Graduate Program and determine a student's continued eligibility in the Direct Admit Graduate Program in May after 3000-level courses are completed.*

Following review of GPA and Essential Professional Functions data, students who no longer meet criteria for the CDS Direct Admit Graduate Program can decide to apply to EIU's CDS graduate program traditionally through CSDCAS.

***Foot note:** Some students may be enrolled in CDS 3900, Introduction to Clinical Techniques, in either spring of their junior year or fall of their senior year. The review of grades and Essential Professional Functions for students in the Direct Admit program will be completed in May after the 3000-level course sequence is completed regardless of which term the student enrolled is enrolled in CDS 3900.

CDS Early Admit Graduate Program

Early Admit to EIU CDS Graduate Program

Current EIU CDS students with an interest in attending EIU's CDS graduate program who meet the following criteria are encouraged to apply for acceptance into the CDS Early Admit Graduate Program:

- They have a 3.5 cumulative GPA and major GPA upon completion of 3000-level CDS courses.*
- They have completed >60 hours of college credit by the end of the spring term.
- They have met the Essential Professional Functions in Undergraduate Coursework minimum requirements.
- They have submitted an application to the Graduate Admissions Committee by April 1 of their junior year consisting of:
 - Written responses to the personal essay question and 3 short answer questions from EIU CSDCAS
 - Resume that includes extra-curricular, service, leadership, and employment experience

Review of applications will take place during May by the Graduate Admissions Committee. Final grades, as well as Essential Professional Functions, will be considered. Students will be notified of acceptance into the CDS Early Admit Program by June 1.

*Foot note: Some students may be enrolled in CDS 3900, Introduction to Clinical Techniques, in either spring of their junior year or fall of their senior year. The review of grades and Essential Professional Functions for students applying to the Early Admit program will be completed in May after the 3000-level course sequence is completed regardless of which term the student is enrolled in CDS 3900.

Transition from Direct Admit or Early Admit to Graduate Student Status

Students accepted into the Direct Admit or Early Admit programs are required to report graduate school plans to the Graduate Coordinator by December 15 of their senior year and may include the following choices:

- Accepting admittance to EIU's graduate program
- Applying elsewhere and considering other graduate programs
 - If applying to other places in CSDCAS, the student would have an April 15 decision deadline like other applicants.

Accelerated Option with Direct and Early Admission to Graduate Program

Students completing the EIU CDS Direct Admit or Early Admit programs may be eligible to earn graduate credit toward their graduate degree while completing their undergraduate degree. If an accelerated 3-year bachelor's degree plan with 5-year bachelor's/master's combination plan is desired, then 4 of 5 required EIU 2000-level courses must be completed in the year after high school.

Please refer to the Graduate School policies at <https://www.eiu.edu/graduate/accelerated.php> about accelerated programs and taking courses for "shared" credit. CDS students in the Direct Admit or Early Admit programs may take up to 15 shared credits to fulfill the 120 semester hours required for the B.S. degree, which will also fulfill certain graduate requirements in the CDS M.S. program. Courses for shared credit may be taken only after the May admission review is completed following completion of

3000-level courses as described in the Direct Admit and Early Admit programs. Enrollment in accelerated coursework for shared credit is contingent upon chair approval and availability of seats.

Graduate courses that may be used for shared credit are listed below:

- CDS 5000 Research Methods in Communication Disorders & Sciences. Credits: 1
- CDS 5100 Motor Speech Disorders. Credits: 3
- CDS 5130 Advanced Speech Disorders. Credits: 2
- CDS 5210 Literacy for the Speech-Language Pathologist. Credits: 2
- CDS 5230 Early Childhood Language Disorders. Credits: 3
- CDS 5250 School-Age Language Disorders. Credits: 3
- CDS 5905 Advanced Clinical Diagnosis and Assessment. Credits: 1
- CDS 5915 Advanced Clinical Treatment and Methodology. Credits: 1