

B.S. IN COMMUNICATION DISORDERS & SCIENCES

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY & AUDIOLOGY



**THE ONLY
ILLINOIS PUBLIC
UNIVERSITY
WITH CLINICAL
EXPERIENCE FOR
UNDERGRADS**

EIU.EDU/COMMDIS





WHY CHOOSE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY OR AUDIOLOGY?

Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology are dynamic careers focused on communication and connection.

- Work with both children and adults
- Treat speech, language, swallowing, and hearing challenges
- Make a real impact on people's daily lives
- Enjoy flexible careers across medical, educational, and private practice settings

CAREER OUTLOOK

This field offers exceptional stability and opportunity:

- High job demand due to national shortage of professionals
- Strong earning potential
- Speech-Language Pathologists: median ~ \$89,000
- Audiologists: median ~ \$87,000
- Multiple job offers are common for graduates
- 100% employment reported among graduates in our program

WHAT MAKES EIU DIFFERENT?

Eastern Illinois University offers a highly personalized and hands-on learning experience:

- Faculty teach all classes (no teaching assistants)
- Small class sizes for individualized attention
- Strong mentoring relationships with professors
- Gain clinical experience as an undergraduate student

START WORKING WITH CLIENTS AS AN UNDERGRAD

Gain real clinical experience your junior/senior year

- Shadow a graduate student clinician
- Begin treating your own client (under supervision)

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Enhance your education beyond the classroom:

- Study abroad programs (including Jamaica)
- Research projects and conference presentations
- Mentor in the STEP College Autism program
- Volunteer experiences in community settings
- Student organizations such as National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA), American Sign Language (ASL) Club, CDS Connections, Bilingual Journal Club



CUSTOMIZE YOUR DEGREE BASED ON YOUR GOALS

CDS majors can build a pathway that fits their future.

Options include:

- **Pre-Therapy Track:** Speech-language pathology, audiology, occupational therapy, physical therapy
- **Pre-Med/Healthcare Track:** Medical school, Physician Assistant, healthcare fields
- **Education Track:** School counseling, psychology, education-related careers
- **Business Track:** Private practice management or healthcare administration
- **Bilingual Track:** Work with diverse and multilingual populations

You are not locked into one path - you can adapt as your goals evolve.

EIU ADVANTAGES FOR GRADUATE SUCCESS

EIU supports your long-term goals from day one:

- High graduate school acceptance rates
- Strong faculty recommendation letters
- Early Admit and Direct Admit program options
- High certification exam pass rate

WHERE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS & AUDIOLOGISTS WORK

Graduates pursue careers in:

- Schools
- Clinics and Hospitals
- Private practice
- Early intervention programs
- Government and research settings



GET A PERSONALIZED ADMISSIONS CHECKLIST
AND CONNECT WITH YOUR COUNSELOR AT

my.eiu.edu





BECOMING A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST OR AUDIOLOGIST *REQUIRES GRADUATE SCHOOL.*

APPLICATION & ADMISSION OPTIONS

At Eastern Illinois University, exceptional students can begin planning for graduate school long before they earn their bachelor's degree. Through our Direct Admit and Early Admit pathways, qualified students can secure guaranteed admission to select graduate programs, providing confidence and a clear path toward their future.

Graduate program admission is increasingly competitive across Illinois and the nation. EIU created these opportunities to recognize and reward high-achieving students while helping them stay focused on their academic and career goals. By earning guaranteed admission as early as high

school, students and their families gain peace of mind, knowing a place in an EIU graduate program is already waiting for them. ***Students not eligible for the direct or early admission options can still apply through the traditional application process!***



QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

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PATHWAYS TO GRADUATE SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS / TRANSFER STUDENTS (SLP DIRECT ADMISSION)

- High school senior or transfer student (with 2.5 or more years remaining to complete their *B.S. degree*) who is admitted to EIU with a declared major in Communication Disorders and Sciences

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS



High School GPA
3.75 or Higher
(4.0 Scale)

OR



SAT 1230+ / ACT 26+
& GPA of 3.5–3.74
OR
Top 10% of class



FAST TRACK OPTION

Accelerate your degree completion if you have AP/Dual Credit coursework

- Complete bachelor's degree in 3 years + 2 years for master's degree = finish in 5 years total



CURRENT EIU CDS MAJORS (SLP EARLY ADMISSION)

CDS Majors are eligible to apply for the Early Admission to Graduate School option if they:

- Did not participate in the Direct Admit program from high school
- Have completed their 3000-level courses
- Have a minimum of 3.5 cumulative and major GPA upon completion of 3000-level CDS courses
- Have completed more than 60 college credit hours by the end of spring term
- Meet Essential Professional Functions requirements in undergraduate coursework

Faculty advisors provide additional program information and assist students in the Direct and Early Admit processes.



AUDIOLOGY COLLABORATION (EARLY ADMISSION)

EIU CDS Majors are eligible to apply to the Early Admission to Audiology Graduate School at Northern Illinois University option if they:

- Have completed their 3000-level courses
- Have a minimum of 3.5 cumulative and major GPA upon completion of 3000-level CDS courses
- Have completed more than 60 college credit hours by the end of spring term
- Meet Essential Professional Functions requirements in undergraduate coursework



SEE HOW EIU CHECKS OUT

Important questions to consider when choosing a university to study the field of speech-language pathology or audiology

IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU.
APPLY TODAY AT
MY.EIU.EDU

WILL I HAVE CLINICAL EXPERIENCE AS AN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT?



- In Illinois, EIU is the only public university where all undergraduate students in the major for more than two years treat a client before graduation. Students first shadow a clinician for one semester, then work with their own client for one semester.
- Three private Illinois universities also offer undergraduate clinical experience, but tuition is typically 3–5 times higher than EIU.

HOW MANY CLASSES FOCUS ON TREATING SPEECH OR LANGUAGE DISORDERS? ARE CLASSES GUARANTEED?



- EIU students complete 10 courses focused on evaluating and treating communication disorders, plus 6 courses in communication science and normal development. Some universities mainly offer science and development courses with limited treatment-focused classes.
- Yes — seats in all EIU CDS courses are guaranteed for majors.

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS GET ACCEPTED INTO GRADUATE SCHOOL?



- Graduate school is required to become a speech-language pathologist or audiologist, and admission is competitive. The national average acceptance rate is about 52%.
- More than 80% of EIU undergraduate students are accepted into graduate programs, with even higher rates for students in the major longer than two years.
- Some universities may not track or share their graduate school acceptance rates, so be sure to ask.

WILL PROFESSORS KNOW ME WELL ENOUGH TO WRITE STRONG RECOMMENDATION LETTERS?



- Graduate programs typically require three faculty recommendation letters to apply. As an undergraduate student at EIU, you will get well written and personalized recommendations.
- With small class sizes, clinical supervision, and departmental advising, faculty know students very well, and those relationships support strong letters of recommendation.

WHAT OTHER EXPERIENCES WILL PREPARE ME FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL AND A CAREER IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY OR AUDIOLOGY?



At EIU, we offer the following helpful experiences:

- Volunteer experiences
- Active NSSLHA student chapter
- Research opportunities
- STEP Program working with students with Autism
- Independent study and undergraduate thesis options
- Honors Program
- Study abroad experiences led by CDS faculty
- Customized course plans to fit your interests



TAKE THE NEXT STEP

- + Apply to EIU
- + Visit Campus
- + Contact the Department



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