



## Pre-Med, Pre-Dentistry or Pre-Physician Assistant with Major in Communication Disorders & Sciences

Medical schools, dental schools, and physician assistant programs do not favor any particular major. They are seeking individuals who are well rounded in their educational background and who have strong communication and leadership skills, a caring attitude toward others, emotional stability under stress, and critical thinking/problem solving ability. Medically fragile and elderly patients often have a variety of communication difficulties. Choosing a major in Communication Disorders and Sciences with required Pre-Med, Pre-Dentistry or Pre-Physician Assistant coursework will enable you to learn about the science of speech, language, hearing, and swallowing problems, how to communicate effectively with individuals with hearing, speech, and language difficulties, and basic evaluation and treatment techniques for communication disorders. Faculty in Communication Disorders get to know our students well in small class sizes and as advisors. They write very personalized strong letters of recommendation which are essential for medical, dental, and other graduate programs. This plan of study gives you alternative “back-up” options of applying to master’s programs in speech-language pathology or clinical doctoral programs in audiology. This plan of study has BIO 3460 Clinical Rotation for guided shadowing in medical settings, CDS 3900 Clinical Techniques for guided shadowing in the EIU Speech & Hearing clinic, and CDS 4900 Clinical Practicum in Speech or Hearing. Please see career information about being a Doctor of Audiology/Audiologist or Speech-Language Pathologist at <https://www.eiu.edu/commdis/careers.php>. Both of these professions have shortages/high employment, good salaries, job flexibility, and help people. There are also PhD shortages and many opportunities as university faculty in both of these fields. If you have questions about these options contact Dr. Rebecca Throneburg, [rmthroneburg@eiu.edu](mailto:rmthroneburg@eiu.edu) (217-581-7447).

### SAMPLE COURSE SEQUENCE FOR CDS MAJOR with PRE-MED/PRE-DENTIST/PRE-PA COURSES

<b>Freshman</b>				
	S H	FALL SEMESTER	SH	SPRING SEMESTER
	1	<b>CDS 2000 INTRO to CDS</b>	3	<b>CDS 2500 ANATOMY/PHYSIOLOGY of Speech &amp; Hearing</b>
	4	<b>BIO 2001G</b> Human Physiology (CDS requirement & Gen Ed)	4	<b>MAT 2250-G Elementary Statistics</b> (a stats class required by Med and CDS and is a Gen Ed)(or other Gen Ed)
	3	<b>BIO 1500 General Biology I</b>	3	<b>PSY 1879G Intro to Psychology</b> (CDS requirement, Med Req, Gen Ed) (or other Gen Ed)
	3	<b>CHM 1310G/1315G General Chemistry I &amp; Lab</b>	3	<b>CHM 1410G/1415G General Chemistry II &amp; Lab</b>
	3	ENG 1001G College Comp I (or other Gen Ed)	4	<b>BIO 2210 Anatomy &amp; Physiology I</b>
	3	SOC 1838G Intro to Sociology (or other Gen Ed)		
	17		17	<b>Total Hours - 34</b>
<b>Sophomore</b>				
	S H	FALL SEMESTER	SH	SPRING SEMESTER
	3	<b>CDS 2200 LANGUAGE ACQUISITION</b>	3	<b>CDS 2100 PHONETICS/PHONOLOGY DEV</b>
	3	<b>CDS 2800 SPEECH SCIENCE</b>	3	ENG 1002G College Comp II (or other Gen Ed)
	4	<b>CHM 2440/2245 Organic Chem I &amp; Lab</b>	3	<b>CHM 2840/2845 Organic Chem II &amp; Lab</b>
	4	<b>BIO 2220 Anatomy &amp; Physiology II</b>	3	<b>BIO 3200 Genetics</b>
	4	<b>BIO 3120 Molecular &amp; Cell Biology</b>	3	MAT 2110G Brief Calculus if required by Med or PA school or other Gen Ed that needs completed
	18		15	<b>Total Hours - 32</b>
(note: recommended to take grad school GRE test summer between sophomore & junior year for Audiology, SLP, PA programs)				

Junior				
S	H	FALL SEMESTER	SH	SPRING SEMESTER
3		CDS 3100 PHON ASSESS/TREATMENT	2	CDS 3300 SIGN LANGUAGE AND DEAF CULTURE
3		CDS 3200 LANGUAGE DISORDERS	3	CDS 3500 NEUROLOGY/EMBRYOLOGY
3		CDS 3700 DIAGNOSIS/TREATMENT	3	CDS 4300 INTRO TO AUDIOLOGY
3		CHM 3450 Biochemistry I	4	BIO 3460 Clinical Rotation (Rotate between different health professional settings & meet with instructor 3 hours per week to reflect on components of rotation)
4		PHY 1151G/1152G Principles of Physics (note: Med Req, sub for CDS requirement of Physics 1071/1072)	4	PHY 1161/1162 Principles of Physics II
				Note: TAKE MCAT test for med school and/or Dental Admissions Test (DAT) for Dental School Spring of Junior year
16			16	Total Hours 32

Senior				
S	H	FALL SEMESTER	SH	SPRING SEMESTER
3		CDS 4350 AURAL REHABILITATION	2	CDS 4815 AUGMENTATIVE & ALTERNATIVE COMM (AAC)
3		CDS 3900 CLINICAL TECHNIQUES* (clinic shadow in speech pathology/audiology & class)	3	CDS 4600 SEMINAR IN COMMUNICATION DISORDERS
3		PSY 3515 Child Psych or HSL 2850 Child Dev	1	CDS 4900 CLINICAL PRACTICUM in Speech or Hearing
3		CMN 1310G Intro to Speech Com (or other Gen Ed or Elective) (or move to Spring and have a light semester with 12 credits during application process)	3	Gen Ed, Science Elective, or other Elective
3		Gen Ed, Science Elective, or other Elective BIO 3624 Histology for Pre-Dentistry	3	Gen Ed, Science Elective, or other Elective
		Apply to Grad School for Physician's Assistant, Speech Pathology, Audiology, Medical School or Dental School (you can apply to more than one kind- we have had students accepted to multiple options)	3	Gen Ed, Science Elective, or other Elective (or don't take any and have a lighter semester with 12 credits)
15			15	Total Hours 30

**GENERAL EDUCATION Checklist (40 semester hours)**

Language ("C" or better) 9 hrs		Social Behavior Sciences 9 hrs		Mathematics ("C" or better) 3 hrs	
Course	cr	Course	cr	credits	Semester Taken
ENG 1001G Comp I	3	PSY 1879G Intro Psychology	3	MAT 2250G Stats	
ENG 1002G Comp II	3	SOC 1838G Intro Sociology (recommended)	3	Senior Seminar 3 hrs	
CMN 1310G Speech Com	3		3	EIU (CDS 4600?)	
Humanities/FineArts* 9 hrs		Scientific Awareness 7 hrs		!Foreign Languages** 0-8 hrs	
HU (PHI 1000G Intro Philosophy recommended)	3	BIO 2001G	4	Exempt? 2 yrs high school Foreign Lang	
FA _____	3	CHM 1310G/1315G	4		
HU/FA _____	3				

**WHAT MAKES YOU UNIQUE FROM OTHER APPLICANTS?**

**Healthcare Experience** • Volunteer or work in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, assisted living centers, crisis nursery, and rehab centers is beneficial. • Shadow a specialist. Ask to volunteer in their practice.  
**Leadership Experience:** Doctors, dentists, physician assistants, speech pathologists & audiologists are leaders in their communities and demonstrated leadership skills are a must. Campus, department, and community organizations provide excellent leadership opportunities.  
**Get Informed:** Gather information early about requirements for applications and prepare strategically.

**For additional resources:**

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 ADVISING Eastern Illinois University  
 Life Science Building 600 Lincoln  
 Avenue Charleston, IL 61920 Phone:  
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 healthprofessions@eiu.edu