

**Prerequisite Courses for Graduate School**

Communication Disorders and Science Program

Information and FAQs

**Overview**

Required prerequisite courses are part of the certification standard for speech language pathology. For information on this standard, see <https://www.asha.org/certification/2020-slp-certification-standards/>. Three areas of this standard must be complete prior to beginning graduate work in the CDS program:

* Standard IV-A: biological, physical, and social/behavioral sciences; statistics
* Standard IV-B: knowledge competencies for basic communication and swallowing processes
* From Standards IV-C and IV-D: hearing anatomy/physiology, etiology, assessment, and treatment

Courses for Standards IV-B, C, and D must be taken at a four-year university/college; community college courses (e.g., for SLPA programs) are not accepted. Courses from Standard IV-A can be taken at a two- or four-year institution.

Prerequisite course approval is at the sole discretion of the program director of the graduate program you are entering. You should be able to produce a syllabus if questions arise about content areas being met.

You are required to completely fill out the prerequisite checklist (located on our [How to Apply](https://education.uoregon.edu/cds/apply/ms) page) as a part of your application materials uploaded to CSDCAS. You should include both completed and anticipated courses if you are still completing your undergraduate or leveling program. Please include only courses that meet the requirements; you may include an alternate if you are unsure but please do not list multiple courses.

**Standard IV-A: sciences and statistics**

This requires coursework in the biological, physical, and social/behavioral sciences, as well as statistics. The standard notes that only specific content in the sciences meets the requirement. For a list of acceptable course content areas for sciences and statistics, see <https://www.asha.org/certification/course-content-areas-for-slp-standards/>

**FAQs:**

* **Does any course with a listed prefix meet the science requirements?** No. The courses must be in areas listed by the standard and contain relevant content. For example, in the social/behavioral science, a biological anthropology course will not meet the requirement.
* **I took my science courses a long time ago. Will they still count?** Yes. There is no time limit for the courses to count toward your prerequisite requirements.
* **Do these courses have to be taken for a grade?** No. You may take these courses graded or pass/no pass. If graded, a minimum grade of C- is required.
* **How many courses do I need?**  You need one course in each of the areas for a total of four courses.
* **Does the statistics course have to be a math class?** No. Statistics courses from fields such as psychology, sociology, and business are also acceptable.

**Standard IV-B:** **knowledge competencies for basic communication and swallowing processes**

These courses form the core content for undergraduate communication disorders programs and are the basis for postbaccalaureate/leveling course plans.

The most common question arising about this Standard relates to the UO requirement to have a course in neuroanatomy/neurophysiology. This should be a standalone course and should contain content in gross anatomy, blood flow in the brain, the main sensory and motor systems, and comprehensive coverage of all 12 cranial nerves.

**FAQs:**

* **What if I’m not sure which classes to put in the different content areas on the prerequisite worksheet?** You can check the syllabi from your courses to see if they indicate which content areas they meet. You can also check with an advisor in your program as they should have knowledge of the Standard.
* **My university does not offer neuroanatomy/neurophysiology at the undergraduate level. What should I do?** Your best option to check out online offerings of courses at other universities – there are many programs offering distance prerequisite courses.
* **I took a course in acquired/neurological disorders, or a psychology course focused on cognition. Does that count for neuroanatomy if we learned about the brain?** No. The course does not count if only a portion of the content covers neuroanatomy and does not have a comprehensive focus as noted above.
* **Can required content be spread across multiple classes? Or can one class meet two content areas?** Yes. Different programs organize their information differently across their course offerings. The syllabi and course descriptions should help determine the breadth of content related to the Standard.

**Audiology coursework**

In addition to the areas above, students entering graduate school must have coursework related to audiology, including anatomy/physiology of hearing structures, etiology of auditory disorders, and assessment (testing) and treatment (aural habilitation/rehabilitation). This content is frequently contained in two to three courses in most programs.

**What about observation hours?**

You do not need to submit documentation of the required 25 observation hours until you are accepted to the graduate program. This is not a required part of the application materials.