

University of Oregon
Communication Disorders and Sciences
Graduate Program Preparation Coursework: Frequently Asked Questions
Updated 11/17/20

Every year, a number of students with degrees in other fields are interested in becoming certified speech-language pathologists (SLPs). These students who already have a bachelor's degree are welcome to enroll in Communication Disorders and Sciences (CDS) undergraduate classes through the Community Education Program (CEP). Formal admission is not required and you may register for up to 8 credits per term during fall, winter, and spring terms, and for up to 16 credits during the summer term. To learn about how to register for courses through the UO CEP, please go to the following website: <https://cep.uoregon.edu/>

By taking the CDS grad preparation courses, students are able to complete prerequisite CDS coursework for entry into an SLP master's program (required for entry level into the profession) and subsequent national certification/ licensure. Completion of the CDS grad prep courses prepares students for graduate school and generally makes them more appealing to graduate program admissions committees across the country.

Besides taking CDS courses through the CEP, what other options do I have to get into the field of speech-language pathology?

It is also possible to pursue a second bachelor's degree in CDS. This would require more time and would involve taking a greater number of courses in CDS. To pursue this option, students should contact Dr. Karen McLaughlin, who is the CDS undergraduate advisor. Her email address is kdurany@uoregon.edu.

What else can you tell me about taking CDS courses through CEP?

CEP students:

- May obtain more information through: <https://cep.uoregon.edu/>
- May begin taking CDS courses through CEP any term. You are not required to follow the fall, winter, spring sequence of courses, as listed.
- May take up to 8 credits, Fall, Winter, and Spring and up to 16 credits in Summer
- Are not federal aid eligible but can pursue private loans
- Have access to the Library, LTD, EMU, Rec Center
- Can obtain an ID card, but it does have a small fee
- Do not pay the matriculation fee
- Pay tuition based on student-level for the courses (have a bachelor's GR/Do not have a bachelor's UG)
- Do not pay the Health Center Fee and do not have access to the services

How long will it take me to complete the CDS grad prep coursework?

Most students complete the recommended grad prep course work in one academic year (3 quarter terms). However, if you'd like to go at a slower pace, it is also possible to complete the courses over two or more years. You may begin coursework in any term, but CDS courses are only offered once per year.

Do I receive a second degree or certification for completing the CDS grad prep courses?

The CDS grad prep coursework is not a degree-granting/ certification program. In other words, there is no degree or certificate awarded for completion of the recommended prerequisite courses. Completion of the prerequisite courses, reported on your official transcript, is typically all that is required to apply for graduate school (in other words a degree in CDS is not required). A very small number of students choose to pursue a second bachelor's degree, which requires more courses and generally requires at least 4-5 academic terms (please visit the registrar's website for more information at http://registrar.uoregon.edu/current_students/second_degree).

How many and which courses do I need to take to complete the CDS grad prep coursework?

- There are 6 recommended CDS courses (See Grad Prep Coursework Schedule). These courses are typically the ones required for admission to most graduate programs across the country. However, graduate programs vary and students should check with individual programs to learn about specific requirements.
- The CDS program also suggests 4 optional CDS courses. While not required for graduate school admission, these courses will help to prepare you for your graduate courses and your future career.
- There are 4 non-CDS courses that are required for national certification (e.g. statistics, biological science). You may find that you have already taken these courses during your undergraduate studies. If not, we recommend completing them before graduate school. They may be completed pass/no pass.

Do I have to take all of my pre-requisite courses at UO?

CDS grad prep courses can be completed solely at UO or in combination with courses completed at other universities. Since this coursework is not a degree-granting program, there are no requirements for completion of certain courses at our university.

Do I need to get individual advising before starting the CDS grad prep coursework?

You do **not** need to meet with an advisor before starting the CDS grad prep coursework. For questions concerning the Community Education Program and registering for coursework, please see their website: <https://cep.uoregon.edu/>

Am I guaranteed acceptance into graduate school when I complete the CDS grad prep courses?

Completion of the CDS grad prep courses does not guarantee acceptance into the UO CDS graduate program or any other graduate program. All applications to the UO graduate program are evaluated equally, whether applicants were previously students at UO or not.

When do I apply for graduate school?

Students can choose to apply for graduate school while they are taking CDS grad prep courses or after completion of those courses.

- **Applying while taking CDS coursework.** If you plan to complete the CDS grad prep coursework in one year and go to graduate school the next year, you will need

to apply to graduate school after just one term of CDS courses if you begin in the fall (most graduate school applications are due in January). Most graduate schools will accept your application before you have completed all of your grad prep courses, as long as you describe your plan for completing all of the courses before the graduate program begins. Students who would like to apply to graduate school before completing all or most of the CDS grad prep courses are more likely to be successful if they have:

- A strong undergraduate GPA.
 - Strong letters of recommendation from their undergraduate program or can get letters from CDS faculty before completing all of the grad prep courses.
 - Completed most or all of the required non-CDS courses before starting to take the CDS grad prep coursework.
 - Researched graduate programs and are familiar with individual application requirements.
- **Applying after the completion of CDS grad prep coursework.** Many students choose to wait to apply for graduate school until after they have completed all (or most) of the CDS grad prep courses because they:
 - Want to establish a new undergraduate GPA by completing all CDS grad prep courses before applying to graduate school. Most graduate programs will still consider your previous undergraduate GPA, but will also attend to your newly established CDS GPA.
 - Want to go at a slower pace because they are returning to school after many years or need to work while they are taking CDS grad prep courses.
 - Still need to research graduate schools and/or take the required non-CDS courses.

How do I get information about tuition costs, scholarships, and financial aid?

Information about the cost of tuition can be obtained through the CEP website at: <https://cep.uoregon.edu/>

However, CEP students generally are not eligible for federal financial aid because CEP is not a degree-granting program.

Where is the CDS program located?

HEDCO Education Building, 2nd floor, 1655 Alder Street, Eugene OR 97403

How do I get more information about CDS grad prep coursework?

The CDS grad prep advisor, Professor Marilyn Nippold, would be happy to answer your questions by email (nippold@uoregon.edu), talk with you by phone (541-346-2587), or meet with you in person (HEDCO 275; advising hours are posted and differ by term).

Please do not seek advising for our CDS grad prep coursework anywhere else on campus.

COVID-19 Update:

Note: Professor Nippold has limited work hours during the summer months (mid-June to mid-September) and may be slower to respond during this time. Additionally, because of

COVID 19 restrictions, she is currently not working in her UO office so cannot meet in person or return phone calls. Therefore, email is the best way to contact her at this time.

For general questions, you may also contact our CDS Academic Program Coordinator, Autum Loverin, by email ([cgs@uoregon.edu](mailto:cds@uoregon.edu)) or leave a voicemail at (541-346-2480).