

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNICATION DISORDERS & SCIENCES



SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY OR AUDIOLOGY: MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN THE QUALITY OF PEOPLE'S LIVES

At EIU, you can build a strong foundation with undergraduate clinical experiences not offered at any other public university in Illinois as well as research opportunities and job shadowing.

With graduate study, careers in communication disorders and sciences (CDS) can be pursued as an audiologist; speech-language pathologist; or speech, language, and hearing scientist. The fields are full of exciting challenges and employment opportunities that can lead to a stimulating lifetime career in variety of work environments including private practice, early intervention, schools, hospitals, and rehabilitation settings.

DEMAND IS GROWING

For more than a decade, EIU students in communication disorders/speech-language pathology have an employment rate of 100% after graduate school, often with multiple job offers.

Job opportunities for speech-language pathologists are projected to grow by 18% through 2026 and by 21% for audiologists during that period.

"I think EIU is the best place to study CDS. I like that we can work with clients before graduating and going off to grad school. And I love the faculty in charge of my major's department. You can tell how passionate they are, and they light up when they teach." Alison M. Blair, CDS major

OUR STUDENTS ARE SUCCESSFUL

All undergraduate programs in communication disorders are NOT the same in preparing students for successful admission to graduate school or providing a clinical foundation for future professional practice.

More than 80% of EIU undergraduate students are accepted into graduate school, which is required to become a speech-language pathologist or audiologist (52% national average acceptance rate). Faculty advisors will help plan an optional minor related to speech pathology that can provide access to graduate study in a related field.

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SEE HOW EIU CHECKS OUT!

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A UNIVERSITY TO STUDY THE FIELD OF COMMUNICATION DISORDERS & SCIENCE

WILL I HAVE CLINICAL EXPERIENCE AS AN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT?



- In Illinois, EIU is the ONLY public university to give all undergraduate students (who are in the major for more than two years) a client to treat . You will shadow another clinician for one semester, then you will have your own client for one semester.
- Three private universities in Illinois also provide undergraduate clinical experience, but the tuition is 3 to 5 times more expensive than EIU.

HOW MANY CLASSES ABOUT TREATING SPEECH OR LANGUAGE DISORDERS ARE IN THE PROGRAM? ARE CLASSES GUARANTEED?



- EIU requires undergraduate students take 10 classes about how to evaluate and treat communication disorders in addition to 6 communication science and normal development classes. Some universities offer only (or mostly) the science and normal development courses.
- YES, Seats in all EIU CDS classes are guaranteed for majors.

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS GET ACCEPTED IN GRADUATE SCHOOL?



- Students need to attend graduate school to be a speech-language pathologist.
- Graduate school acceptance is competitive and the national average is 52%.
- More than 80% of EIU undergraduate students are accepted into graduate school (Students in the major for more than 2 years tend to have higher acceptance rates)
- Some universities may not know or may not tell you what percentage of their students get into graduate programs in speech pathology— be sure to ask this question!

WILL MY PROFESSORS KNOW ME WELL ENOUGH TO WRITE STRONG LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL?



- Graduate school admission is competitive and 3 letters of recommendation from faculty in your undergraduate program are an important part of your application.
- At EIU, small class sizes, clinical supervision, and faculty advising allow professors to know undergraduate students well and write personalized letters of recommendation.
- Students from big universities sometimes report challenges in finding 3 professors who know them well enough to write personalized letters of recommendation.

ARE THERE OTHER GOOD EXPERIENCES THAT WILL PREPARE ME FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL AND BEING A FUTURE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST?



At EIU, we offer the following helpful experiences:

- Many volunteer opportunities
- Research experience
(i.e. independent study, undergraduate thesis)
- Study abroad led by CDS faculty
- Active student NSSLHA chapter
- STEP Program to work with students with Autism
- Honors program