FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC’S SLP PROGRAM

1. How can I learn more about the program?

2. What degree is offered after completion of the program?
   A Master of Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology.

3. How long is the program?
   - The program is 15 months long for individuals who have an undergraduate degree in Communicative Disorders or Speech-Language Pathology OR have a Bachelor’s degree in another field AND have taken the following courses from a CAA-accredited program in Speech-Language Pathology: Speech and Language Development; Phonetics; Audiology; Articulation & Phonology (or Speech Sound Disorders); Anatomy & Physiology of Speech and Swallowing; Language Disorders; Speech & Hearing Science
   - Also desirable but not mandatory: Multicultural Populations; Diagnostics; Disorders of Fluency
   For those individuals that have degrees outside of Speech-Language Pathology, the program is 24 months in length.

COST AND FINANCIAL AID

1. How much does it cost to attend Pacific’s SLP program?

2. What kind of financial aid is available?
   Financial aid packages at Pacific are tailored to each individual’s qualifications and program of study. Therefore, no specific information can be given regarding financial aid until a student has been admitted to a program and has accepted admission to a program. Applicants can contact the financial aid department directly (209-946-2421 or financialaid@pacific.edu) for answers to specific financial aid questions.

3. Do you offer teaching assistantships or graduate assistantships?
   At the present time the department does not offer teaching/graduate assistantships. If you choose to complete a thesis, there are stipends available.

GENERAL APPLICATION

1. How many students apply and how many do you accept?
   During the 2015 admissions cycle, 230 individuals applied to the SLP program at the University of the Pacific. Of these applications. For 15 month program 20 students were admitted. For our 24 month program 9 individuals were admitted. Our graduate level class size is typically 25-30 students.

2. What is required to apply to the program?

3. Is it possible for me to come and see the campus and talk with an advisor?
   Our department offers information sessions throughout the year to help answer prospective student questions and tour our department/clinic. To view the available dates and sign up for an upcoming session, visit our webpage [http://bit.ly/slpsignup](http://bit.ly/slpsignup). Due to the large number of requests received each year, no individual appointments for graduate tours will be made.

4. Do you offer admission in the spring semester?
   No. Due to the prescriptive nature of our program, we only admit students to begin the program in the fall.

5. Do I need to submit official transcripts to CSDCAS and Pacific when I apply?
   During the application process, you only need to submit official transcripts to CSDCAS. If you are admitted to Pacific, we will contact you to request official transcripts.
6. **What prerequisite courses are necessary?**

There are no prerequisite courses required to apply to our program (regardless of your prior major), however, you must have a bachelor’s degree before you can enter our graduate program. The following courses ARE NOT prerequisites but need to be completed before you graduate from our program (these are often part of your general education requirements and must be completed with a grade of “C” or better):

- A child development course
- A psychology, sociology or anthropology course
- A biology or human anatomy course
- A statistics course
- A chemistry or physics course

7. **Can online courses satisfy the undergraduate foundation course requirements to make me eligible for the 15-month program?**

If you successfully complete an online speech pathology or communicative disorders program, you will be considered for the 15-month program. Please be sure to complete the “Coursework Required to be Eligible for the 15-Month Program” worksheet in the supplemental application. ALL courses listed on this worksheet must be completed in order to qualify for the 15-month program.

**CSDCAS**

1. **Where do I go to access the CSDCAS application?**

The CSDCAS application can be accessed here: [https://portal.csdcas.org/](https://portal.csdcas.org/)

2. **What if my recommender DOES NOT want to fill out his/her letter of recommendation online?**

CSDCAS requires that all letters of recommendation be completed online. If your recommender does not want to complete the recommendation online, unfortunately you will need to find another recommender. **DO NOT** use the recommendation forms that can be found on the university’s webpage. The university recommendation forms WILL NOT be accepted by CSDCAS or the department.

3. **Can I submit more than the three (3) required letters of recommendation?**

Due to the volume of applications we will be reviewing, we will only read the letters belonging to the three (3) people listed on your supplemental application.

4. **What is the prompt and length requirement for the personal statement?**

There is no required prompt for the personal statement. While there is no minimum for the statement, the maximum, set by CSDCAS is 5500 characters.

5. **My application status still says, “RECEIVED”. Did I make the deadline?**

In order to meet our application deadline, your CSDCAS application needs to have a status of “RECEIVED”. **NOTE**, your application must be submitted to CSDCAS by 11:59 PM (Eastern Standard Time) on the application deadline date in order to be considered “on-time”. If you check on your application and you are at an “On Hold” or “Undelivered” status, please contact CSDCAS regarding the status of your application – (617) 612-2030.

6. **What if my test scores (transcript, letters, etc.) don’t get to CSDCAS by the January 15th deadline?**

CSDCAS will continue to accept items (e.g. test scores, transcripts, letters of recommendation, etc.) for two weeks following the deadline. After the two-week timeframe, applications that are still missing items will be considered “late” or “incomplete” and will not be reviewed.

**GPA**

1. **What is the minimum GPA required to apply to Pacific’s SLP program?**

The minimum GPA required to apply is a 3.0. As a point of reference, the average GPA of the students admitted for the Fall 2015 cycle was 3.72.

2. **My GPA is low but I really want to be a speech-language pathologist. What do you recommend?**

A couple of things: Try to do well on your GREs. Visit the ASHA website for more information about minimum requirements for different programs – [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org)
3. I have a graduate degree. When I calculate my overall GPA, should I include my graduate course grades? Yes. The department of speech-language pathology will be looking at your last 60 units of study. This would include all post-baccalaureate coursework (if applicable).

GRE EXAM
1. When should I take the GRE exam?
   We recommend that the GRE be taken by November 30th (at the very latest) to insure that their scores are received by CSDCAS by the January 15th application deadline. GRE scores can take 6-8 weeks to be received by CSDCAS.

2. What is the code I need to use to have my GRE scores reported to CSDCAS?
   The University of the Pacific’s CSDCAS code is: 0773

3. What GRE score should I be aiming for?
   As a point of reference the average GRE scores of the students admitted for the fall 2014 cycle were:
   GRE-Verbal: 153   GRE-Quantitative: 149   GRE-Written: 4.0

4. My GRE exam score is low so I am going to take it again. How do you assess multiple GRE exam scores?
   We will use the highest score achieved for each subsection.

5. Are my GRE scores too old?
   If you have taken the GRE within the past 5 years, your scores are still considered current. If you took the GRE more than 5 years ago, you will need to retake the exam and submit your new scores.

ADMISSIONS PROCESS
1. When will I find out if I was admitted?
   All applicants will receive an admission decision, sent via email, from the department by the end of March.

2. If admitted to the program, when will I need to make my decision?
   Student decisions (to accept or decline our offer) will be due by April 15th.

3. What happens if I’m placed on the waiting list?
   If you are placed on the waiting list, you will be asked to let our department know whether or not you want to remain on the waiting list – pacificslp@pacific.edu. After April 15th, the admissions committee will meet and review those who remain on the waiting list. They will then begin notifying students on the waiting list, if spaces have become available.

   NOTE: Student rankings WILL NOT be disclosed to those on the waiting list, even after it has been ranked due to its ever-changing nature (e.g. applicants accepting positions elsewhere). All applicants that are placed on the waiting list will be notified when the class has been filled and the waiting list has been closed.

OTHER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
1. When do classes begin?
   Classes begin the last Monday in August.

2. Can general education courses (needed to complete the program) be taken, pass/fail?
   All GE courses must be taken for a grade and students must earn a “C” or better in order to meet the course requirement.

3. I’ve taken some of the courses for your program at my undergraduate institution. Do I need to retake them?
   Yes. Accepting admission to our program means that you will complete all courses required for the program, here at Pacific.

4. Is it possible for me to work my full-time job while in your program?
   Because our program is a full-time, day program, students that do work often have a job with flexible hours (e.g. retail or waitressing, etc.). The program requires students to be available M-F from 8-5 typically (this includes time spent in class, clinic and at off-site school/medical sites).