Applying to Northwestern’s MS in Speech, Language, and Learning (SLL) Program

Thank you for your interest in NU’s MS in SLL program. NU’s MS SLL program utilizes the Communication Sciences and Disorders Centralized Application Service (CSDCAS) for application submission and review. There are no additional applications or supplemental materials to complete or submit for the application process. All credentials and application materials are processed through CSDCAS. Please do not send any application materials to NU.

General information about CSDCAS, including a link to their FAQs may be found here: [http://www.capcsd.org/csdcas-student-page](http://www.capcsd.org/csdcas-student-page). To begin the CSDCAS application process, please create a CSDCAS account via [https://portal.csdcas.org/](https://portal.csdcas.org/).

Please read and follow all CSDCAS directions closely for completion of all sections of the application. Please refer to the CSDCAS FAQ’s as needed.

Entering Information

Academic History

In addition to uploading your transcripts, you will enter your coursework into the CSDCAS system. Please use the "Basic Communication Processes" category for any Communication Sciences and Disorders or Speech and Hearing Sciences coursework, whether you took this as part of your major, minor, electives, or post bac/leveling coursework. Please refer to CSDCAS’s FAQs on “Academic History: Entering Coursework” for more information.

Personal Essays

Your responses to the personal essay prompts will be uploaded electronically to CSDCAS. When completing the application on CSDCAS, you will be prompted to view program-specific instructions for your personal essays. NU’s personal essay question prompts reads as follows:

Please respond to the following questions. The first four essay questions are required. The fifth essay question is optional. Each question has a limit of 2500 characters.

1. What is your motivation for pursuing a career in Speech Language Pathology?

2. What personal characteristics do you posses that make you well suited for clinical practice in the field of speech language pathology?
3. Why do you want to attend Northwestern University for your graduate education? What do you believe you would contribute to the MS SLL program at Northwestern University?

4. Tell us about a goal you set for yourself and how you achieved it. What motivated you to set and achieve your goal?

5. Do you have other pertinent information about yourself that will inform the admissions committee about your ability to be successful as a student in the MS SLL program at Northwestern University?

Extracurricular and Volunteer Experience
In lieu of submitting a resume, you will enter information regarding your extracurricular, volunteer, and/or employment experiences. These experiences might include working in faculty labs or assisting on faculty projects, volunteering for student or community groups, or working to put oneself through school. CSDCAS provides a list of experience categories. Please refer to CSDCAS’s FAQs on “Experience Information: Extracurricular and Volunteer Experience” for more information.

Submitting Information/Sending Documents

GRE Scores
Please have your official GRE scores sent directly to CSDCAS using NU's CSDCAS reporting number (2550). Please refer to CSDCAS’s FAQs on “Sending Documents: Standardized Tests” for more information.

Transcripts
Please send all official transcripts from every college or university you have attended directly to CSDCAS. CSDCAS has specific FAQs for students with US and English Canada transcripts, Foreign and French Canadian transcripts, and Study Abroad/Overseas US Institution transcripts. Please refer to the FAQs as relevant to your academic history. CSDCAS provides a Transcript Request Form, mailing address, and instructions on the FAQs.

International students, please see the section at the bottom of this document for additional instructions.

Three Letters of Recommendation
CSDCAS processes letters of recommendation electronically. Please refer to CSDCAS’s FAQs on “Sending Documents: Letters of Reference” for more information.
Please note that three letters of recommendation are required. It is strongly suggested that at least two of the letters be from faculty. We expect strong letters of recommendation from faculty who know you well and can speak to your ability to perform in a rigorous, clinically focused program.

We realize that many of our applicants have diverse academic backgrounds and may not have relationships with faculty in the field of CSD. This is not a problem, though we do suggest including a letter of recommendation from an individual in the field whenever possible. For an applicant with a non-CSD major, this may be a third letter of recommendation from an SLP you have observed.

**A Note for International Applicants**

CSDCAS will not accept foreign transcripts or translated foreign transcripts. Your transcripts must be evaluated and sent directly to CSDCAS. **NU requires a course-by-course evaluation of your transcript by an evaluation service to be considered for admission.**

Additionally, applicants who are not citizens or permanent residents of the United States, or whose native language is not English, must certify language proficiency in one of three ways:

1. Providing acceptable TOEFL or IELTS scores. Tests must be taken within two years of the intended quarter of entry. The minimum TOEFL scores are 550 (paper-based), 213 (computer-based), and 80 (internet-based). The minimum IELTS score is 7.0.

   If you need to submit TOEFL or IELTS scores, these scores are NOT submitted to CSDCAS and must be sent to the department. Please contact Ms. Cindy Coy (ccoy@northwestern.edu) for information on submitting your TOEFL or IELTS scores.

2. Earning an undergraduate degree from a regionally accredited, four-year institution or equivalent, where the official language of instruction is English.

3. Earning a graduate degree from a regionally accredited institution where the official language of instruction is English.