

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)
FOR THE UNDERGRADUATE (UG)
COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS (CSD) MAJOR

NOTE: PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION:
<https://www.qc.cuny.edu/Academics/Degrees/DAH/LCD/Pages/BA-CSD.aspx>

BECOMING A CSD MAJOR, DECLARING A MINOR OR SECOND MAJOR

1. How can I begin taking CSD major courses?

- You first need to formally apply to the major. You can do so only if you have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 (B) and 24 completed credits from a regionally accredited college or university. For more information and the application refer to the UG CSD website (given above).
- Students are admitted on a rolling basis.
- Once accepted into the major, you can self-register in our courses **ONLY** after your Declaration of Major is processed. It is **very important** for students to follow up and have that form processed. It is students' responsibility to submit the departmentally signed form to the QCHub. Of course, the program's criteria are applied to what classes a student can self-register into.
- If a departmental block is placed on a CSD major class, you can contact Gail Oswald at Gail.Oswald@qc.cuny.edu to request permission to be put on a list to take the class. The decision of who gets priority for the given class is dependent on a variety of factors that will be assessed by the Associate Chair and Program Director.

2. Can I ask my advisor to register me for my classes?

- **NO.** Students self-register based on the date assigned to you on CUNY First. The registration date is based on your student status, e.g., Senior, Junior, etc.

3. Should I declare a minor or a second major?

- Students interested in taking a minor or second major are advised to declare it. The minor or second major can reflect the student's interest (i.e., psychology, linguistics, education, anthropology, music, etc.).
- You *register yourself* for these other classes. Please be in touch with that major/minor's department for any questions about their courses.

4. Is it mandatory that I declare a minor or a second major? If I do not, can I register for any classes I like?

- **NO**, it is not mandatory and you can register for any classes you like. However, we strongly suggest that you do declare a minor or double major. This will allow you to concentrate additional classes in a field that can complement your CSD major.

5. What if I decide to defer the major or drop the major?

- Students should inform the CSD UG Admissions Coordinator (see website for email address) if they choose to defer and/or drop the major.

CSD COURSE REQUIREMENTS, SEQUENCE, AND PLANNING

6. Do I need to take any sciences as part of the CSD major?

- Yes, as of Fall 2022, two science courses are required for fulfilling the requirements of the major. These courses will also fulfill the requirement of ASHA for graduate applications in speech language pathology and audiology programs.
- The two classes in the sciences should be in: 1) biology AND 2) chemistry or physics, and can be introductory courses (3 cr. each), no need to take a lab.
- Please visit the UG CSD website for the list of suggested science courses for our major.

7. Do I need to take a course in statistics?

- **YES**. The acceptable statistics courses for our major include: 1) SOC 206, 2) PSYCH 107.3, OR 3) MATH 114. These are 3-credit courses. Please refer to the UG CSD website for more information about other classes required for the major.

8. I am a transfer student and I took statistics and/or science classes at my other institution. Will these classes be recognized so I do not have to take them again?

- This is dependent on what the courses from the other institution will be equivalent to at QC.
- For example, if your Statistics class transferred in as SOC 206 or Psych 107.3, then they will be accepted toward the CSD major.

9. In what order/sequence should I take the CSD major classes?

- CSD major classes are taken by level, 100s, 200s, 300s. More information can be found at our UG CSD website (given above).
- Once you have finished ALL 100 level classes, you can move on to the 200's. 100 level and 200 level classes can not be taken together.
- You can move on to 300 level classes if you have the necessary 200 level prerequisite classes.
- Check with your advisor every semester for information on which classes to take together, how many classes to take in a semester, etc.

10. Can I take CSD major courses at other colleges (CUNY or non-CUNY colleges) with an Epermit?

- **NO.** As a QC CSD major you must complete your CSD major courses ONLY at QC.

11. When will I graduate?

- It is highly advisable that you meet with your advisor to figure out how long it will likely take you to finish the major. When you meet with your advisor you can map out the semesters it might take toward a projected date of graduation.
- It typically takes **about 5 semesters** for students to complete the CSD major courses but it can take longer. See the CSD website for the suggested course sequence.
- It is also important that students refer to DegreeWorks to plan the other required courses, outside of the CSD major, that are needed for the general BA. If you need advice for these course requirements, please contact Academic Advisement.
- Please understand that the priority is that you do well in your undergraduate courses in order to achieve the goal of acceptance into graduate school. If you have a projected date of graduation, the availability of classes per semester and your academic record should take precedence over when you will graduate.

12. I would like to get my Teacher of Students with Speech and Language Disabilities (TSSLD) certificate. What courses should I take?

- The certification requirements for the TSSLD are provided at the graduate level.

REGISTRATION

13. What should I do if a CSD class section that I want to take is closed?

- If one class section fills, we recommend that you self-register in the other section.
- The decision on seating **is not** the professor's decision. These decisions are made by the Associate Chair.
- If you choose to request a seat, it is **required** for you to attach a PDF of your current QC transcript along with the specific class/section you are requesting. **Always include your CUNYFirst ID** in your email communications, preferably in the heading of the email.
- All Bursar Holds must be lifted before we can seat you in a class. We cannot 'reserve' classes for you while you settle your accounts.

14. In the event that I cannot register for a CSD class because it is full or not available, what other classes can I take?

- You can take some of the other required courses for the major, that can be taken anytime. They include:
 - 1) PSYCH 214 (prereq. PSYCH 101)
 - 2) Statistics: SOC 206 or PSYCH 107.3, or MATH 114
 - 3) One course in biological science from the following list: BIO 9, or 21, or 22, and
 - 4) One course in physical science from the following list: PHYS 3 or 5; or CHEMISTRY 16.3, or 101.3, or 113.4

15. If I fulfilled all my CSD major requirements and general college requirements, what courses can I take to maintain my full time status?

- Students may complete general electives by taking courses in (most) department/s or programs they choose; however, depending on the course/program, students may need department permission and/or prerequisite course/s.
- Electives may be used to supplement the chosen major (e.g., CSD majors may want to take courses in Linguistics) or to fulfill interest in a different area (e.g., psychology or education).
- Students are encouraged to use available electives to complete a dual major, minor, pre-requisites for graduate or professional school, or complete an internship, experiential learning and/or study abroad.
- Students are encouraged to use their available general electives wisely and focus on coursework that will assist them personally, academically and professionally.

16. If I would like to take classes in other departments, can I ask my advisor to register me in these classes?

- NO. You must contact the appropriate department for those courses.

ADVISEMENT

17. Who can I turn to when I am confused and have questions about the CSD major?

- Once accepted into the major, you will be assigned an advisor. You should contact your advisor for 1:1 advice as you move along the major.
- Also, you should attend at least one of the two **major general advisement sessions** which are given at the start of each semester and the group advisement session that your particular advisor will be scheduling. Please refer to the UG CSD website for the dates/time and zoom link for those sessions.

18. Will my advisor advise me about other information related to my general college requirements, outside the CSD major?

- NO. You need to refer to other college-wide websites, like Registrar, Academic Advising, etc., for that information.
- Here is one of many other helpful links that provides information related to Pathways/General education and Advising: <http://gened.qc.cuny.edu/pathways/>.

19. If I am doing poorly in a class, what can I do? What types of support are available to help me?

- The first step to take if you are not doing well in a class is to contact the Professor and ask his/her advice as to how to improve your work in the class. This should be done AS SOON as you recognize that you are having problems with the class.

GRADUATION

20. How do I apply for graduation?

- Refer to the Registrar Website for information about graduation deadlines. <https://www.qc.cuny.edu/registrar/Pages/Welcome.aspx>

SLP AND AUDIOLOGY GRAD SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

21. How can I find out more about SLP and Audiology grad schools?

We suggest you visit ASHA's online directory of graduate degree programs in SLP at <https://www.asha.org/edfind>, and in Audiology at <https://www.audiology.org/>.

22. How important is it to achieve a high GPA to be accepted into graduate school in SLP or Audiology ? What constitutes a high GPA?

- Admissions to graduate school is a competitive process, particularly in the NYC area. It is advisable to check the website of prospective schools to see if they have guidelines relative to GPA criteria.

23. Do I need to worry about performing well from the beginning-- starting with the 100- level classes?

- YES, it is important but ultimately it is your final major GPA that will be critical so there is always room for improvement.

24. When do I ask professors for a letter of recommendation for SLP or Audiology graduate school applications?

- It is best to ask professors for letters about 9-10 months in advance of when the application is due. Professors' letter quota often gets filled quickly so be sure to ask him/her in a timely fashion. **Requests for letters will NOT be considered 2 months before the application deadline.**
- Keep in mind, each professor has different guidelines and requirements for accepting requests. It is best to approach professors who will likely write you a strong letter, e.g., professors in whose classes you did really well in and/or who have a positive experience of your being in their class(es).
- It is departmental policy that ONLY TWO CSD Professors will write letters for each student. The third letter, if required by a Graduate school, can be sought from any other non-CSD professor.

PROFESSIONALISM

25. How should I refer to my Professor in my email and personal communication with him/her?

- Be sure to be respectful, professional, and appropriate in your communication with your professor as this will reflect on you. Refer to them as “Professor” or “Doctor”, as appropriate and not by their first name.
- When you meet with your advisor, please dress appropriately for the meeting.

26. How can I find out the emails for my professors?

- Professors’ emails can be found on the department website.

27. What should I do if I don’t hear back from a Professor?

- Please understand that the professors are very busy. Give the professor at least 2 days before you send a second e-mail on the same topic. If you have not heard from the professor in a timely fashion, please contact the Associate Chair or Program Director.

EXTRACURRICULAR

28. How do I connect with other students in our department? I would like to be part of a student organization.

- We have two student groups that we encourage you to join:

1) **NSSLHA (National Student of Speech, Language, and Hearing Association):** Contact info: QC.NSSLHA@qc.cuny.edu

This is the only national student organization for pre-professionals studying communication sciences and disorders (CSD) recognized by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). The meetings and activities aim to inspire, empower, and support students in the field of CSD by giving students the tools to navigate their academic career while preparing students for a professional one.

- 2) **BLASK (Black, Latinx, Asian, and all Students of Color):** Contact info:
qcblasklcd@gmail.com

This is a support group that represents the needs of students from racial, ethnic, cultural, and diverse backgrounds within our department. The aim is to provide a safe space for our students to come and discuss issues that impact their academic and social success, including plans and applications to graduate programs. In addition, BLASK-LCD aims to connect our LCD students with organizations of students of color within our College and with professionals of color within our communities.

29. I would like to get some research experience. How can I get involved in research?

If you are interested in doing research in a particular area or with a particular professor, feel free to reach out to them to discuss the possibilities.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

30. If I am having technical issues and I cannot log into my classes, what should I do?

- Contact the Help Desk in Dining Hall 151, call 718-997-4444, or email helpdesk@qc.cuny.edu. In addition, let your professor know that you cannot log into class, particularly for synchronous classes.