Is Communicative Disorders The Right Degree and Profession For Me?

Self-Test

After reflecting upon your motivation, strengths, support, and personality, ask yourself the following questions:

Yes/No: Can I Be a Great Student?
The goal is to be a great student, not just a good one! To improve the potential for greatness, students should evaluate their current load of additional responsibilities outside of their educational commitments as well as their support systems while being students. A strong grade point average (GPA) is very important for students pursuing a degree in Communicative Disorders and Deaf Education (COMDDE) from Utah State University. Even though a minimum 3.0 GPA is required by COMDDE for continuation in our distance education and campus bachelor’s level programs, many graduate programs across the country, including our own, typically accept students with higher GPAs. Grades lower than a B- in COMD major courses will likely be viewed as unacceptable by graduate schools. The average GPA of students who have been accepted into graduate school in our department during the last 5 years is approximately 3.75 – 3.8, calculated using the last 60 credits completed. Students with lower GPAs may have difficulty being accepted into graduate school programs.

Yes/No: Would This Profession Be Satisfying To Me?
You will likely enjoy this profession if you are a very strong "people" person, one who enjoys being around and working with others, communicating effectively, practicing patience, developing treatment plans based on evidence rather than just doing what others have done before, and making a difference in lives. If your strengths are in other areas, you would likely do better in another profession.

Yes/No: Is It Financially Worth It To Go Into This Profession?
A college education is a major expense and an investment. The cost of education versus potential salaries should be considered before beginning any educational or vocational program.

Yes/No: Can I Get Accepted Into Graduate School?
Graduate school acceptance is very competitive. There are many more students who apply than there are openings. GPA is one very important consideration. Grades lower than a B- in COMD major courses will likely be viewed as unacceptable by graduate schools.

Yes/No: Can I Maintain a High GPA Without Repeating Courses?
If a student’s GPA falls below 3.0 in our programs, he/she must retake classes until the GPA is raised to at least 3.0. COMDDE allows up to 3 COMD repeats. Some graduate
schools may frown on repeated courses on a transcript even when the repeated course grade is much higher than the original one.

Yes/No: Do I Have Other Options If I Do Not Earn A Master's Degree?
Professional opportunities vary depending on the state – In some states people can work with a bachelor's degree in communicative disorders as a speech technician or speech assistant. However, there are several limitations in these jobs, and students should evaluate carefully what they may be asked to do. They should not agree to do any work for which they have not received educational experience. Prior to beginning classes, students should check with the state in which they hope to work to make sure they understand the requirements of that state, since they may vary state by state. Our program encourages students to earn a master's degree in speech-language pathology or a doctorate degree in audiology, which opens up many more professional opportunities with higher salaries.

More Help Available: For further discussion about any of these questions, students should contact an advisor in the Department of Communicative Disorders and Deaf Education at Utah State University.