

# Graduate Students' Handbook

Communicative Disorders and Deaf Studies  
California State University, Fresno



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## Introduction

The department offers graduate programs leading to an MA in Communicative Disorders and Deaf Studies with an option in Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) and an option in Deaf Education (DE). The master's degree is considered essential for the professional training needed for effective practice in Deaf Education or Speech-Language Pathology. The master's degree generally involves about 2 years of full-time study.

The Master of Arts degree is a 36-unit graduate program. However, students will be taking additional coursework beyond these 36 units. In addition to the courses within the department, *Deaf Education students* will complete the requirements for the California Multiple Subjects Credential; these requirements are completed through the Fresno State Kremen School of Education and Human Development.

In addition to the 36 academic units, *speech-language pathology students* will complete clinical practicums through the department. The first three semesters of practicum will be completed in the department's Language, Hearing and Speech Clinic; the remaining two semesters are completed off campus in department-approved placements. These practicums add an additional 25 to 35 units to the student's program.

## Application Requirements for the Dept. of Communicative Disorders & Deaf Studies

Deadlines for application to graduate studies in CDDS are the same as those for the University.

### Graduate Admission Requirements

The graduate program is open to students with a bachelor's degree in communicative disorders. Applicants who have a degree in another field will be required to complete the undergraduate courses for their emphasis. Applicants must have demonstrated the ability to excel at an advanced level as well as indicated great potential for success in academic work and clinical work. In order to be considered for admission to the graduate program in CDDS, the applicants must have a G.P.A. of 3.0 or greater on their last 60 semester units (90 quarter units) of coursework and on their CDDS major courses.

To apply the student needs to submit the all of the following materials by the *university* application deadline.

1. Application to the university. Apply at [www.csummentor.edu](http://www.csummentor.edu).
2. One official transcript from each college or university attended to Fresno State.

3. One official report of GRE scores to Fresno State.

*After applying to the university you will be directed to the department application forms.<sup>1</sup>*

1. Application to the program.
2. Three letters of recommendation (must be on department form).
3. Letter of Intent (to the department).

*For International Students*, contact the University's Office of International Admissions. International applicants must have a minimum TOEFL Total Score of 100 to be considered for admission to the department's graduate programs.

Students admitted as credential candidates by the department and the Kremen School of Education and Human Development *are not automatically accepted* into the department's graduate programs.

### **Information for Post-Baccalaureate Students**

Students who have earned an undergraduate degree in a major other than Speech-Language Pathology or Deaf Education need to complete all the undergraduate prerequisite courses before they are admitted into the graduate program. Contact the Graduate Coordinator for more information.

## **Graduate Student Standing**

### **Information for students admitted into the program with full classification status.**

This category is granted to those students who fully meet all university and program admission requirements. It enables the student to pursue a graduate degree and fulfill all of the professional, personal, scholastic, and other standards (including qualifying examinations) prescribed by the campus.

In consultation with your academic advisor and the graduate program coordinator, you should petition for advancement of candidacy at the beginning of your second semester of graduate studies.

If you are planning to do a *thesis* or a *project* as a culminating experience, it is essential that you be advanced to candidacy at the beginning of the second semester of graduate studies.

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<sup>1</sup> You may download any of these forms at <http://www.fresnostate.edu/chhs/cdds/policies-forms/grad-requirements/index.html>.

### **Information for students admitted into the program on a conditional status.**

Students may be admitted to a graduate degree program in this category if, in the opinion of the appropriate campus authority, the student can remedy deficiencies by additional preparation, including the combination of prerequisite requirements.

Students who have been granted conditionally classified admission to a graduate program are required to complete all conditions for achieving classified status (full admission) to the program by the semester in which a maximum of 10 units to be used toward the master's degree is completed. Failure to attain classified graduate standing in a timely manner as outlined in the catalog may result in the loss of units to be applied toward the degree since units in excess of 10 prior to classification may not be listed on the Petition of Advancement to Candidacy.

A student is expected to attain *classified* graduate standing either at admission or during the first semester of studies. Candidates for classification are expected to possess a minimum 3.0 post-baccalaureate cumulative grade point average.

It is your responsibility to meet the conditions specified in your letter of admission into the graduate program. As soon as you have met the conditions, please see the graduate program coordinator to initiate the request for classification.

**How and when to request classification status.** Students who have been granted conditionally classified admission to a graduate program are required to complete all conditions for achieving classified status (full admission) to the program by the semester in which a maximum of 10 units to be used toward the master's degree is completed.

## **Graduate-Level Writing Competence**

California State University, Fresno requires that students have graduate-level writing abilities before being advanced to candidacy for the master's degree. Students can demonstrate these abilities by passing the writing component of the CDDS 200 course and obtaining written clearance from the instructor.

### **CDDS Graduate Writing Evaluation Process**

The CDDS graduate writing evaluation process has two components to it.

1. The in-class spontaneous essay writing on an academic or general issue or topic, and

2. Completing a research paper according to the APA format. The research paper is an extensive assignment, prepared with in-depth research into the topic and the research design. It is usually a treatment efficacy study.

If students fail either or both of these components, the remedies are as follows:

1. Students who fail the in-class writing test are given two more opportunities to pass: each of these in-class essays will be on a different topic or issue.
2. Students who fail to meet the research paper component of the graduate writing evaluation also will have two additional opportunities to revise and resubmit their proposal. The professor will provide written comments about the students' papers. The students can revise their papers and resubmit them, usually within a previously agreed upon time period but no later than the end of the first month after classes start in the following semester.

### **Graduate Writing Skills Appeal Process.**

If a student decides to appeal any graduate matters, including the graduate writing evaluation, the student should submit an appeal in writing to the departmental graduate coordinator. After reviewing the recommendations of the graduate coordinator, the department chair will make the final recommendation on the appeal.

## **Advancement to Candidacy.**

### **Advancement to Candidacy: Eligibility**

Classified graduate standing gives a student permission to work toward qualifying for candidacy. Advancement to candidacy gives a student permission to proceed toward qualifying for the degree and provides the student with a program of study that has been officially reviewed and approved by both the Graduate Coordinator and by the Graduate Dean. This important step confers on the student the status of candidate for the degree and represents a commitment both on the part of the student and the degree program to complete the degree within a specified time limit according to requirements published in a specific university catalog year. Advancement to candidacy is essential to the student in planning for registration in courses. The student should therefore meet with his/her graduate program coordinator soon after attaining classified graduate standing to discuss advancement to candidacy.

Advancement to candidacy must be attained no later than *the semester (or summer) preceding the semester (or summer) in which the student begins the culminating experience*. Campus policy requires a student to petition for advancement to candidacy as soon as he/she becomes eligible to do so. Normally, this should occur within one semester of

having attained classified graduate standing. Compliance with this policy is necessary for a student to remain in good standing. All students in graduate standing must also demonstrate a satisfactory level of scholastic, professional, and ethical competence as determined by program faculty to be eligible to continue in the graduate program. Eligibility requirements for advancement to candidacy include the following:

1. A student should be classified by the semester in which a maximum of 10 units to be used toward the master's degree are completed. Not more than 10 units (including transfer and post-baccalaureate credit) completed before achieving full classified graduate standing at California State University, Fresno may be listed on the Petition of Advancement to Candidacy. Courses taken during the semester in which the student is classified may also be listed on the Petition of Advancement to Candidacy.
2. Completion of any additional prerequisites which the Graduate Coordinator or Department Chair specifies in writing.
3. Completion in graduate standing at California State University, Fresno of at least 9 units of the proposed program with a 3.0 grade point average on all completed work appearing on the Petition of Advancement to Candidacy.
4. All graduate students must demonstrate their competence in written English prior to advancement to candidacy. Early completion of this requirement is recommended. The date the student met the graduate writing requirement must be noted on the Petition of Advancement to Candidacy form. See approved program requirements.
5. Submission to the Division of Graduate Studies of the properly signed Petition of Advancement to Candidacy. Petitions are available on the Division of Graduate Studies website and are designed for each graduate program at <http://www.fresnostate.edu/academics/gradstudies/forms/atc.html>. The student is responsible for adhering to deadlines established by the Graduate Division for the submission of advancement forms. Forms received after the deadlines are considered late and will be processed as time allows. *Students cannot be advanced to candidacy and graduate in the same semester.*

### Advancement to Candidacy Policies

The approved degree program for the master's degree is a coherent pattern of (1) specific requirements for the program and (2) additional courses selected to meet the student's particular needs. It consists of at least 36 units, which must be completed within 5 years just preceding the granting of the master's degree. Only graduate courses (200 series) and such upper-division courses (100 series) as are recommended by the colleges, schools, or departments and approved by the University Graduate Committee are acceptable on the unit requirement. Other courses are counted in calculating the student's study load and cumulative post-baccalaureate GPA, but cannot be counted toward the unit requirement for the master's degree. Courses that were used to satisfy

the requirements of a previous degree may not be used on the program. The approved program must be consistent with the following policies.

### **Residency**

At least 26 units of a 36-unit program must be residence credit (courses taken through regular enrollment at California State University, Fresno). No more than 10 units of transfer and/or California State University, Fresno Extension credit may be included in the 36-unit program.

### **Transfer Credit**

Transfer credit may be used toward a California State University, Fresno master's degree only if the institution offering the work is accredited (A-rated) and would accept it for a comparable master's degree program. The off-campus institution must also have listed the units as post-baccalaureate graduate units on the student's transcript. Credit at California State University, Fresno will be granted if it is judged by appropriate university authorities to be particularly relevant to the individual student's program. The student must present appropriate documentation, including official transcripts of work completed and copies from the catalog of the institution where the transfer work was taken, as follows: the relevant course description(s), evidence that the course(s) may be used toward a graduate degree at that institution, the course numbering and grading systems, and information clarifying whether the institution used the semester or quarter system.

### **Continuing Education**

Courses taken through Continuing and Global Education (Extension and/or Open University) are not normally used to fulfill the requirements toward a master's degree. Students intending to take a course through the Division Continuing and Global Education must request special permission from their graduate program coordinator to use the course toward their program. If approved, a maximum of 10 transfer (including California State University, Fresno Extension and/or Open University) units may be used on a 36-unit program. Students may not enroll through Open University in order to bypass the university fee structure.

### **Courses Not Permitted For Degree Fulfillment**

Courses used to fulfill G.E. curriculum (Capstone, Integration, or Multicultural/International), undergraduate writing W courses, lower-division courses, and professional (300-level) courses may not be used in fulfillment of the program requirements of the master's degree.



### **Credit by Examination**

Credit by Examination (CBE) may be used to fulfill prerequisites, but may not apply toward the master's degree program.

### **Credit/No-Credit Courses**

Graduate students may not elect to take a course for a CR grade to fulfill either prerequisite or major program requirements unless the course is only available for CR/NC grading as indicated by *class note 14* in the Class Schedule.

### **Post-baccalaureate/graduate credit taken prior to the granting of the baccalaureate degree**

With approval of the graduate program coordinator, post-baccalaureate/graduate credit allowed for work taken prior to the granting of the baccalaureate degree may be applied toward a master's degree. However, the amount of post-baccalaureate credit used toward the master's degree may not exceed one-third of the student's entire approved program.

Courses may not be included on the advancement to candidacy petition if they do not fall within the 5-year limit. A minimum of 70% of the courses in a student's program for the master's degree must be graduate-level courses numbered in the 200 series. Substitutions for regular departmental requirements must be approved by the graduate program coordinator and noted on the front page of the Petition for Advancement to Candidacy.

*How and when to petition for the advancement of candidacy?*

Advancement to Candidacy should be completed in the student's *second* semester of the graduate program. University policy does not permit a student to advance to candidacy and to graduate in the same semester. Forms for advancement to candidacy are available at <http://www.fresnostate.edu/academics/gradstudies/forms/atc.html>. The forms should be completed in consultation with your academic advisor.

### **Plagiarism and Cheating**

APM 235 is the official policy and procedures for Cheating and Plagiarism. This departmental policy is designed to further define requirements of APM 235 at the departmental level.

### **Departmental Policy**

All CDDS faculty will use their discretion when working with a student on "drafts" of assignments, papers, and/or possible instance of cheating. All CDDS faculty are required to utilize the plagiarism software "TurnItIn" for substantial written work such

as a research paper or written final exam. All CDDS faculty have “the prerogative of lowering a grade, assigning a grade of “0” or “F” for the text/paper, assigning an “F” for the entire course, or recommending another penalty that seems appropriate” (APM 235, p. 2). Examples of previous academic sanctions include but are not limited to:

- Earning a “0” for the assignment
- Earning only partial credit for an assignment or final exam question
- Earning a “0” for the assignment and one letter grade lower than the one earned (i.e., Student was given a zero for the assignment and had an 82% in the course that was then lowered to a “C” for the final grade)
- Being removed from the class and earning a “0” on the exam (continuous eye gaze on the exam of a peer)

CDDS faculty will be kept informed during the process via email or departmental meeting(s). If the student is majoring in CDDS, the faculty advisor will be notified at the beginning of this process by the chair along with the graduate coordinator if applicable.

### Departmental Procedure

Each faculty member shall immediately notify the department chair of instances of cheating and/or plagiarism. Details of the alleged cheating and/or plagiarism must include:

- Course and section
- Student name and ID number
- Documentation of cheating (see APM 235 Appendix A) or plagiarism (see APM 236 Appendix B) including a description of the allegation(s)
- Faculty recommendation for academic sanction(s)

The department chair will acknowledge receipt of the documentation via email to the faculty and the administrative support coordinator will place the information in the CDDS electronic Cheating and Plagiarism folder. The faculty member will then follow the required procedures outlined in APM 235 section 1 Part C. The CDDS electronic file will be updated upon the conclusion of the departmental process for Cheating and Plagiarism. If an appeal is made to the chair and/or university Academic Petitions Committee, the outcome will be included in the CDDS electronic file.

### Academic Probation and Disqualification

Graduate students in the Department of Communicative Disorders and Deaf Studies can be disqualified if (1) their Cumulative GPA falls below 2.0, (2) they are on Academic Probation for *any* two semesters (they need not be consecutive semesters), or (3) they receive a grade of *C or lower* in three or more classes. Students who meet criterion 1 or 2

are disqualified from the university; students who meet criterion 3 are disqualified from their graduate program.

Disqualifications are made after grades have been posted for the semester. Upon disqualification, the student is disenrolled from all of their next semester classes (for students disqualified from the university) or from their classes in their graduate program (for students disqualified from their graduate program). *Students are not permitted to enroll in these classes during the semester following their disqualification. If the students are readmitted, they may not enroll until the semester following their readmission to the University or program.*

### **Policy on Petitions for Disqualified Readmission**

Disqualified students may petition to be readmitted to the university or graduate program. They must complete the following steps:

1. They must complete the following to initiate the Petition.
  - a. The *Petition for Readmission of Disqualified Graduate Student* (available at <http://www.fresnostate.edu/academics/gradstudies/documents/forms/ReadmissionofDisqStudentform.pdf>).
  - b. A one-page letter describing the circumstances leading to disqualification and a plan to remediate their deficiencies in GPA or grades.
  - c. Any documentation supporting claims made in their letter or petition form.
2. They must meet with the Department's Graduate Coordinator and at that time provide all documents listed in step 1. University policy requires a meeting with the Graduate Coordinator. ***The deadlines to complete steps 1 and 2 are the same as the application deadlines for fall and spring semester admission; check with graduate admissions for the dates. No petitions may be submitted during the summer or before the start of a semester.***
3. The Graduate Coordinator will forward the petition and documents to the graduate faculty of students' graduate program
4. A meeting of the graduate faculty of students' graduate program and the Graduate Coordinator will be held to review the student's petition and make a recommendation.
5. The Graduate Coordinator will provide to the student, in writing, the recommendation of the program graduate faculty. This recommendation will be mailed to the student.

6. The student has the right to appeal the decision of the department to the Dean of the Division of Graduate Studies (in cases of disqualification from the University) or to the Dean of the College of Health and Human Services (in cases of disqualification from the graduate program).

## Financial Aid

Financial aid funding levels are determined by the unit totals for a program as stated in the university catalog. Speech-Language Pathology is listed as a 36-unit program. However, students will take an additional 25-35 units of practicum. The result is that SLP students should expect to exceed their funding levels during their graduate program. Students receiving *loans* will need to complete a Maximum Unit Petition, which requires verification from the student's academic advisor included with the petition. Petition instructions are available from the Financial Aid website. Students receiving *grants* will be funded to a set number of units; extension is not available. Students receiving a grant would need to seek an additional funding source once the maximum units have been reached. Financial aid forms and information are at <http://www.fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/financialaid/>.

It is the student's responsibility to keep track of the maximum units permitted and prepare to respond accordingly before the maximum is reached. Maximum Unit Petitions require advisor verification. Students should take action on the petition the semester before the unit maximum is reached. Faculty are often not available during breaks to provide verification letters, so students are expected to be proactive in these matters.

## Culminating Experience

A culminating experience is required for each master's degree. Acceptable culminating experiences include comprehensive examination, thesis (299), or project (298). Selection of the culminating experience preferably should be decided by the end of the first semester of graduate studies. Students who have enrolled in thesis or project units will not be permitted to change to another culminating experience during the semester in which they apply for the MA degree to be granted. Please note that if you change your culminating experience after you have enrolled in thesis (CDDS 299) or project (CDDS 298), the units are given a grade of *F* upon graduation.

## Comprehensive Examination

A comprehensive examination is an assessment of the student's ability to integrate the knowledge of the area, show critical and independent thinking, and demonstrate mastery of the subject matter. The results of the examination must evidence

independent thinking, appropriate organization, critical analysis, and accuracy of documentation.

### Thesis

A thesis is the written product of the systematic study of a significant problem. It clearly identifies the problem, states the major assumptions, explains the significance of the undertaking, sets forth the sources for and methods of gathering information, analyzes the data, and offers a conclusion or recommendation. The finished product must evidence originality, critical and independent thinking, appropriate organization and format, clarity of purpose, and accurate and thorough documentation. Normally, an oral defense of the thesis will be required.

If you have decided to pursue thesis as a culminating experience, please download the thesis guidelines and template from the Division of Graduate Studies website. Also, you must attend the thesis workshop held by the Division of Graduate Studies (these are offered each semester). Please take a look at what makes a good thesis proposal. The department also has a cabinet full of theses conducted by previous students. You have full access to these documents.

### Graduate Project

A project is a significant undertaking of a pursuit appropriate to the fine and applied arts or to professional fields. It must evidence originality and independent thinking, appropriate form and organization, and a rationale. A project should be considered to be comparable to a thesis in scholarship — it is a thesis with a resulting “product.” Students will be required to provide a written rationale with literature review, data from field-testing, and any other appropriate written documentation. It must be described and summarized includes the project's significance, objectives, methodology, and a conclusion or recommendation. An oral defense of the project *will* be required.

Students seeking to conduct a project must follow the same approval guidelines as required for a thesis. This involves the formation of a graduate committee consisting of two members of the CDDS department faculty and one member from the department or another setting deemed appropriate to the project objectives. The chair of the project must hold a Ph.D. or Ed.D. from an accredited university. One other member of the committee must hold a Ph.D. or Ed.D. from an accredited university. Faculty members are not required to serve on any particular project or thesis committee; therefore the ability of the student to form a project committee is required to begin a project. Though it will not be submitted to the Division of Graduate Studies, a *Project (298) Committee Assignment* form must be filed with the Graduate Coordinator at the time the student advances to candidacy. (The form is available from the Graduate Coordinator.)

### **Thesis or Project Research Involving Human Subjects and Animal Subjects.**

Students conducting thesis research involving human subjects should not begin use of human subjects until written approval has been received from the University Committee on Protection of Human Subjects (CPHS). Guidelines and forms for protocol can be obtained from the department office or the Office of the Vice President for Administration. Students should allow at least 2 weeks for a required CPHS review.

Students seeking to conduct a thesis must follow the same approval guidelines as required for a thesis. This involves the formation of a graduate committee consisting of two members of the CDDS department faculty and one member from the department or another setting deemed appropriate to the thesis objectives. The chair of the thesis must hold a Ph.D. or Ed.D. from an accredited university. One other member of the committee must hold a Ph.D. or Ed.D. from an accredited university. Faculty members are not required to serve on any particular thesis or thesis committee; therefore the ability of the student to form a thesis committee is required to begin a thesis. A THESIS (299) COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT form must be filed with the Graduate Coordinator at the time the student advances to candidacy.

### **Comprehensive examinations**

**Statement of Philosophy:** Comprehensive examinations are a means by which the faculty assesses your performance at the conclusion of your graduate program before granting the Master of Arts Degree in Communicative Disorders. This assessment is achieved through a series of questions and activities (such as sign language proficiency for Deaf Education students). The written exams provide your faculty the first opportunity to determine if you have achieved adequate mastery of the field. When a written answer in a specific area of study appears insufficient, the faculty will examine that area in more depth during oral examinations in an attempt to determine if you need more review and study in that area. Oral questioning may range beyond the content of the written question in an attempt to determine your level of expertise in that area, and you will want to keep in mind that your faculty is evaluating you globally in each area, rather than focusing only on the original written question and its answer.

**Comprehensive Written Examinations - Speech Language Pathology areas of examination:** The candidate for the Master of Arts in Communicative Disorders with a Speech-Language Pathology emphasis will be examined within four general areas.

#### **Area I: Basic Communication Processes**

1. Basic understanding of the anatomy, neurology, and physiology of the speech, language, and hearing mechanisms
2. Understanding of the normal process of speech and language acquisition
3. Basic understanding of verbal learning, verbal expression, and verbal behavior

#### **Area II: Disorders of Speech and Language**

An understanding of the various disorders common to speech and language pathology; their classification, manifestation, and causes

#### Area III: Diagnostic Procedures in Speech-Language Pathology

1. Techniques and instruments used in the assessment of speech and language disorders in children and adults
2. Psychometric principles (e.g., validity, reliability, standardization, statistical principles, etc.)
3. Understanding of procedures utilized to determine the causes(s) of specific speech and language disorders

#### Area IV: Intervention and Remediation of Speech and Language Disorders

1. Understanding the common principles and procedures used in habilitation and rehabilitation of persons with various disorders of communication
2. An understanding of the rationale given in support of specific remedial methods that may be employed in speech and language remediation

**Comprehensive Written Examinations - Deaf Education areas of examination:** The candidate for the Master of Arts in Communicative Disorders and Deaf Studies with a Deaf Education emphasis will be examined within six general areas. Each one of these six areas will be represented by one major essay question. In addition, you will be asked a series of short answer questions in each area. These questions are designed to sample your knowledge of more specific information.

#### Area I: Sign Language

You will be evaluated on your expressive and receptive sign language abilities on both professional and non-professional topics. Your expressive sign language ability will be videotaped. Your signed vocabulary level will also be assessed.

Part I: Video Exam - Students must write a summary of the information signed by the deaf individual on the videotape exam. The story, which is educationally related in nature, will include vocabulary through ASL III.

Part II: Signed Sentences - Students will listen to an audiotape. After each sentence, there will be a pause allowing students the opportunity to sign the sentence. Students must sign using conceptually accurate signed English to convey these 10 sentences.

Part III: Expressive ASL - Students will be given an opportunity to read an article or story for children. After reading the information, students must create three comprehensive questions about the story that they would ask students in their classroom. Students will not be allowed to refer back to the article or story. They are expected to summarize the story using appropriate ASL linguistic features and then include the three questions they would ask their students.

#### Area II: Aural Rehabilitation/Audiology

You will be evaluated on your knowledge of the assessment and rehabilitation procedures for deaf and hard of hearing individuals of all ages. This includes identification and treatment of hearing disorders, amplification, speech reading, auditory training, speech and language training as well as psychosocial and educational issues.

#### Area III: Speech

You will be evaluated on your knowledge of the methods used with deaf and hard of hearing children and youth to evaluate and develop their oral communication skills.

#### Area IV: School Subjects

You will be evaluated on your knowledge of teaching deaf and hard of hearing children and youth (with or without additional disabilities) and various academic subjects related to the California Standards and California Guidelines for teaching these students, as well as how to adapt preschool through high school curriculum to their needs.

#### Area V: Language

You will be evaluated on your knowledge of the language problems deaf and hard of hearing children and youth exhibit, as well as your knowledge of how to remediate those language problems.

#### Area VI: Assessment

You will be evaluated on your knowledge of various achievement, language, communication and other diagnostic assessment tools administered to deaf and hard of hearing students as well as the unique administration procedures required. Additionally, your knowledge of all aspects of an Individualized Education Plan may be evaluated.

### Examination Procedures

The comprehensive written examination will be written in 2 days; with one half of the examination administered each day.

### Written Comprehensive Examinations

You will be completing the written portion of your comprehensive exam as follows: you will write Areas I and II (SLP students) or Areas I, II, and III (DE students) on the first day and Areas III and IV (SLP students) or Areas IV, V, and VI (DE students) on the next day. You will have a total of 8 hours for the written questions; 4 hours are provided each day. It is frequently helpful for students to spend a few minutes per question to organize an outline of the major points that will be covered in the response. An outline directs your thoughts, helps organize your answer, and makes it easier to monitor your time allocated for that answer. An outline also helps you to not omit



important information. The outline may be submitted with the answer if it is included in the typed document. Written notes may not be submitted unless a question requires a drawing.

As soon as you receive your packet, read through the questions. If you need clarification on the content of any of the question, be sure to ask the person who is proctoring the test, not another student.

Your answers will be evaluated according to the quality of writing, including organization and clearness of expression, accuracy of information, and completeness.

### **Grading of the Comprehensive Examinations.**

Each written answer is graded as “passed,” “marginally passed,” or “failed.” See the definitions below.

*“Passed”*: Demonstrated adequate mastery of the area.

*“Marginally Passed”*: Demonstrated near-adequate mastery of the area. Student will be orally examined in this area. The result of the oral examination will be a determination that the students has either “passed” or “failed” that area.

*“Failed”*: Demonstrated insufficient mastery of the area. Student will retake the written examination in at least this area (see *Comprehensive Examination Retake Policy* below); students who pass with less than 50% of the areas on which they were examined during their current attempt will be required to retake *all areas* of the written examination.

### **Oral Comprehensive Examinations**

Students take an oral examination for areas of their current attempt of the written examination that are graded “marginal pass.” The oral examinations will typically occur 2-3 weeks after the written examinations. You will have access to your written answers during this period, but will not be allowed to take any notes at all. Please call the office staff to find out the time when you could review your answers. Oral exams may be broader in scope than the written question. There will be two to three faculty members present at each oral exam.

An oral exam usually begins with an opportunity given for the student to clarify, expand, or correct the answer from the written exam. Faculty will then pursue certain areas in greater depth as deemed necessary. Those in attendance at the oral exam will make the decision regarding passing the oral segment of the comprehensive examinations, immediately after it is completed. These results will be shared with the student at that time. Passing the oral will mean having passed comprehensive

examinations. Deaf Education students are required to sign throughout the oral examination period.

### Comprehensive Examination Retake Policy.

Upon completion of an attempt (i.e., written and any oral examinations), a student will have a grade of “passed” or “failed” in each area examined. Students who fail one or more areas of their comprehensive examination during a single examination attempt will be required to retake the written comprehensive examination. Whether a student retakes, during their *next* examination attempt, the entire examination or just the areas failed in their *current* attempt are determined by the percent of areas passed during their current examination attempt.

If during the *current attempt* a student passes 50% or more of the areas on which they were examined, the student will retake on their next attempt only the areas failed during the current attempt. If, during the *current attempt*, a student passes *less than 50%* of the areas on which they were examined, the student will retake on their next attempt only the areas failed during the current attempt. **Note that this means that a student may be required to retake areas they had passed during a *previous attempt*.**

## Graduation Information

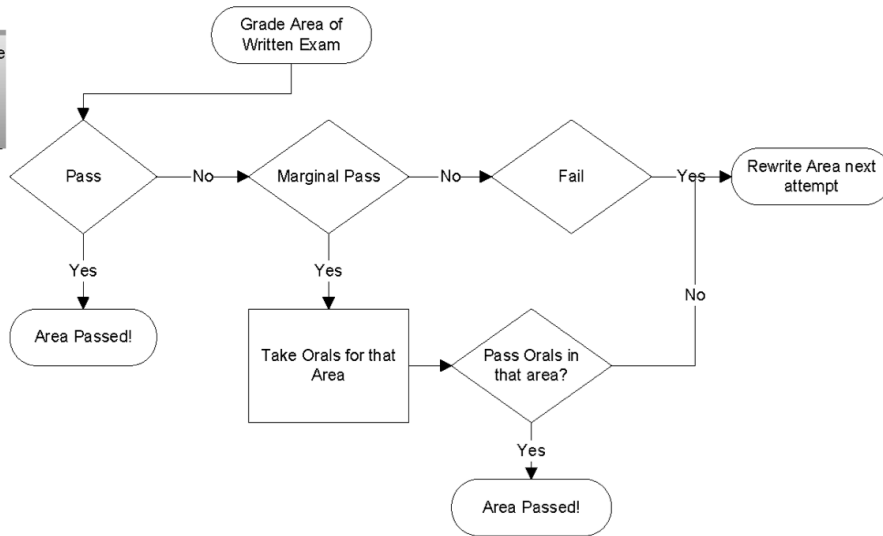
For complete, detailed information on graduate policies and procedures, refer to the “Graduate Studies” section of the university General Catalog. Graduation forms are available at <http://www.fresnostate.edu/academics/gradstudies/forms/index.html>.

Deadlines are available at <http://www.fresnostate.edu/academics/gradstudies/deadlines.html>.

# Grading Comprehensive Examinations

## Grading of Each Area of Written Examination

This flowchart shows the results of the three levels of grading for the written examination. Only "marginal pass" results in orals; fail results in rewriting the area.



## Possible Outcomes of Each Attempt

The outcomes of each semester's comprehensive Examination can result in either passing the entire Examination, rewriting only the areas failed during the current attempt, or rewriting all areas (whether they were previously passed or not passed).

