

ASSESSMENT WEBSITE INFORMATION

College: Nursing and Health Professions **Degree Program:** Communication Disorders BS
Chair/Director: Richard A. Neeley

DATA SAY:

Fifty-three (53) students were competitively admitted to the undergraduate program in Communication Disorders (BS CD). Of those 53 students, 40 applied to for admission to graduate programs in the state or region. Of those 40 who applied for graduate admission, 22 (55%) were admitted to graduate programs in Communication Disorders.

SO WHAT:

As is obvious, admission to graduate programs in Communication Disorders, including audiology, are extremely competitive with admissions being contingent upon space-available. Competitive admissions in the graduate program are typically based on applicant performance in the areas of Grade Point Average, Graduate Record Exam scores, favorable letters of recommendation, and evidence of applicant community engagement. As a result, students admitted to our undergraduate program with Grade Point Averages at the lower end of the allowable limit appear to be a very vulnerable population in the graduate competitive admissions process. Employment opportunities for individuals with Bachelor's degrees in Communication Disorders are extremely limited given that the Master's Degree is the entry level credential for licensure in Arkansas and 47 other states in the country.

HOW WE CHANGED:

Act 1294 of the Regular Session of the Arkansas Legislature offers provisions for employment of individuals with specified training as Dyslexia Interventionists in the public schools in the state of Arkansas. According to the statute, public school districts will be required to employ Dyslexia Interventionists no later than the 2015-2016 academic year. The Communication Disorders Department will collaborate with the Departments of Teacher Education and Special Education at Arkansas State University in an attempt to develop and implement a curriculum that will lead to state certification for Dyslexia Interventionists. Students admitted to the BSCD program with GPA's that may not be competitive in the graduate admissions process, may be employable at dyslexia interventionists, which would allow this group of students to become employable in the state without a master's degree while taking full advantage of the skills acquired in the BSCD.

WHAT WE GOT:

The CD Department will track the progress of the development of a "Dyslexia Interventionist" track at ASU. When that certification track is developed, we will track the number of BSCD students who complete that track and are employed as Dyslexia Interventionists in the state.

