

Fluency Concentration

Elmhurst University

Communication Sciences & Disorders



The master's program at Elmhurst University offers specialized training in applying a differential approach to fluency disorders. This concentration is designed for students who want to pursue specialized academic, research, and clinical experiences to meet the needs of individuals with fluency disorders.

This concentration is aligned with the mission of Elmhurst University to inspire intellectual and personal growth and to prepare students for meaningful and ethical contributions to a diverse, global society.

Objectives:

The concentration will foster a student's knowledge and skills in these critical areas:

1. Differential clinical thinking overall
2. Differential and ongoing assessment of fluency disorders, specifically
3. Differential and ongoing treatment of fluency disorders, specifically
4. Research in the population of individuals with fluency disorders

Requirements

Coursework:

CSD340 (or equivalent): Beginner Fluency Disorders

CSD527: Intermediate Fluency Disorders

CSD585: Advanced Fluency Disorders

Master's Research:

Completion of a master's Thesis or Report is required for all graduate students in CSD. Students pursuing the Fluency concentration will complete their research with a focus on fluency disorders under the guidance of 1. a faculty mentor with expertise in Fluency issues and 2. a single external content consultant who is an ASHA licensed, certified SLP and who specializes in clinical work, teaching and/or research related to fluency disorders. It is expected that students will present their final product at a conference in poster or oral form. Additionally, students will have opportunities to participate in CSF research laboratory meetings, projects, and activities.

Clinical Opportunities:

Students will perform clinical work with the population of individuals with Fluency disorders. Those who successfully master the knowledge and skills of all required coursework in Fluency disorders and demonstrate strong emerging ability to work successfully with this population will be given the opportunity to earn hours of supervised clinical work at *Camp Shout Out* in the 2nd summer of graduate studies. This unique opportunity offers upcoming clinicians hands-on training with Board Certified Specialists in Fluency and with licensed SLPs in the field. School-aged children (8-18 years) participate in a traditional, recreational overnight camp with a therapeutic focus of engaging in positive communication experiences and being part of a community of others choosing to evolve their communication skills. It is an experience in which *all* participants evolve and grow!

Fluency Expert Faculty

Diane Morean, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, MSCI

Dr. Morean completed her:

1. PhD in CSD at Northwestern University with certification in Cognitive Neuroscience
2. NIH funded post-doctoral training in Research in Rehabilitation of Communication Disorders at the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab (#1 rehabilitation institute in the U.S. for 31 consecutive years)
3. 2nd Master's degree in Clinical Investigation (research) at Northwestern Medical School
4. Extensive clinical training at Chmela Fluency Center, Inc. (CFC)

Dr. Morean continues to provide services for individuals with fluency disorders at CFC. She teaches undergraduate and graduate level courses, including courses in fluency disorders. Her research aims to contribute to the understanding of the factors underlying (dys)fluency and effective treatment methods, including the role of fostering resilience in children who persist in stuttering. Dr. Morean delights in mentoring, teaching, providing clinical services, and in being a facilitator at *Camp Shout Out* annually.

Lauren Maxon Ferguson, M.S., CCC-SLP

Mrs. Ferguson completed her Master's degree at St.

Xavier University where she participated in a *National Stuttering Association Adult Stuttering Support Group*. Mrs. Ferguson continued her work with individuals with fluency disorders while working in the public schools and while training graduate students both on and off campus. Mrs. Ferguson is passionate about helping individuals with fluency disorders and furthering fluency research; moreover, she is passionate about increasing the confidence of graduate clinicians in this area of practice.

Admission Process

Please see the Admission Requirements for the graduate program on the department website. All applicants must complete the standard application via CSDCAS. Applicants who are pursuing the Fluency concentration should include an additional paragraph to their personal statement titled, ***Fluency Concentration: Statement of Intent*** to describe their relevant experience and interest in pursuing this concentration in the personal essay of their CSDCAS application. Although not required for entry, please note whether you have taken an undergraduate fluency course in the essay. Applicants will be notified of a program admission decision, and separately of a decision on their acceptance into the Fluency concentration. Capacity for this concentration is limited and participation is dependent on good standing within the CSD program.

For questions, please contact:
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