

Dear Health Advisor,

As an advisor who works closely with students interested in careers in speech-language pathology and other health professions, we wanted you to be one of the first to know of the status of the Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) program at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). Like many other higher education institutions, the budget at MUSC has recently been substantially reduced due to the decline in the economy and subsequent permanent cuts in state funding for higher education. As a consequence, the College of Health Professions has been forced to make some very difficult decisions in order to accommodate these budget reductions. I regret to inform you that as part of the overall plan to improve fiscal viability, I have recommended closure of the CSD Program to the President and the Board of Trustees. It received final approval today. Therefore, we will not be accepting new students into the Communication Sciences and Disorders Program at MUSC.

We realize that news may come as quite a shock and surprise to you and your students. Please know that this decision was made after careful thought and deliberation and was based purely on financial and resource limitations; it is in *no way* a reflection on the quality of the program, our faculty, or our students. We are committed to providing all of the necessary resources for continuing the CSD Program until the current first year class graduates in May 2010 and we intend to maintain excellent standards and fully support the faculty and students during this difficult transition.

I apologize for any inconvenience the CSD program closure at MUSC may cause students you advise. We have notified the program directors for the two other master degree programs in speech-language pathology in the state (USC and SC State University) and encourage interested students to contact them directly. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at chp-deans-office@musc.edu. Again, thank you for all that you do to advise students about careers in the health professions.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Sothmann, Ph.D.
Professor and Dean
College of Health Professions
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