

UC 8859 06S

TO: Lawrence Williams, Chair
Undergraduate Council

Received 3/15/06

FROM: Richard Scamell
Academic Policies and Procedures Committee

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APPROVED MAR 22 2006

SUBJECT: Proposal to Change the Grade Point Average Requirement for Entry in the
Communication Disorders Major (UC 8844 06S)

DATE: March 22, 2006

The Committee met on Wednesday, March 8 to consider a request from the Department of Communication Disorders to change the grade point average requirement for entry into its major. Participating in the discussion were committee members Joel Bloom, Norman Nelson, Charles Peters, Richard Scamell, and Rebecca Achee Thornton. Barbara Snelling, Janie Graham, and Frank Kelly attended the meeting as guests.

Background

Students enter the Communication Disorders Program with little knowledge of the amount of math and science required to complete the major. In addition, students who begin the program and finish with grade point averages of less than 3.2 overall and 3.5 in their major have no chance of getting into any of the programs leading to a Masters Degree in Speech-Language Pathology. Since a Masters Degree is required to practice speech-language pathology in all fifty states, there are no jobs for people with either a B.A. or B.S. in Communication Disorders who are unable to get into a graduate program. Thus as an initial early warning message to students unlikely to qualify for a graduate program in Communication Disorders, the Department of Communication Disorders wishes to establish the following requirements for filing a degree plan:

All students should file a degree plan through the Department of Communication Disorders as soon as the first 21 credits in Department of Communication Disorders are completed. Students should file a degree plan no later than the semester before they plan to graduate. Minimum requirements to file a degree plan include:

- Have junior standing (60 or more semester hours) with at least a 2.00 grade point average.
- Have completed all the core curriculum requirements in communications, history, mathematics, American government, social/behavioral science and natural science.
- Have completed the first 21 credits in Communication Disorders including the Communication Disorders Core¹ with at least a 2.67 grade point average in the major.

The Undergraduate Council has already approved (see UC 8575 05F) three additional requirements for students to continue as a Communication Disorders major. One is that a Communication Disorders course may be repeated only once regardless of the grade earned. In addition, only one course can be repeated. A second is that continuance in the major after two B- or lower grades in Communication Disorders courses will be granted only on successful petition to the Communication Disorders faculty. The third states that further enrollment will not be allowed after receipt of a third C+ or below grade in a Communication Disorders course.

Recommendation

Given the requirements to practice speech-pathology in all fifty states, the Committee supports the imposition of this grade point average requirement for entry in the Communications Disorders major.

¹ The Communication Disorders Core classes consist of the following: COMD 2338 – Phonetics; COMD 2339 – Speech, Hearing, and Language Development of the Normal Child; and either COMD 2376 – Anatomy and Physiology of the Vocal Mechanism or PHYS 2340 – Science of Sound.