

**TO:** Larry Williams, Chair  
Undergraduate Committee

**FROM:** Christina Gola  
Academic Policy and Procedures Subcommittee

**SUBJECT:** UC 12268 13S: Proposal for change in GPA required to declare a major in  
Communication

**DATE:** April 19, 2013

APPROVED APR 24 2013  
*CA*

---

The Academic Policies and Procedures Subcommittee met on April 3 and April 17, 2013. Participating in one or both discussions, and e-mail discussions, were subcommittee members Christina Gola, Willie Munson, Richard Scamell, Shishir Shah, Lesley Sisk, and Stephen Soutullo. Dr. Beth Olson attended as a guest.

**Background**

The Valenti School of Communication seeks to increase the GPA required to declare a major in communication from 2.0 to 2.25. A similar proposal was submitted last year; however, the APP sent suggestions back to the School of Communication asking it to address issues pertaining to transfer students. The new language addresses transfer students. Reasoning for wanting to increase the GPA is to project the quality of the program as their enrollment numbers into the college continue to grow.

**New Catalog Language:**

Students in good academic standing may declare communication as their major and select a concentration at any time. Students interested in the school but uncertain about a concentration may declare themselves Communication Unspecified (COMM-UN) up to completion of 30 hours. Then they must choose a concentration.

To declare a major in the Jack J. Valenti School of Communication a student must have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.25 or higher on a minimum of 12 semester hours at UH.

- A transfer student or UH non-communication student with 15-60 semester hours of college credit who wants to declare communication as their major must have a 2.25 or higher cumulative grade point average, including any attempted transfer courses.
- Applicants who have completed more than 60 semester hours of college credit need a 2.25 or higher cumulative grade point average on the last 60 hours.
- Transfer students who have earned fewer than 15 semester hours of college credit must meet freshman admission requirements.

**Discussion**

The subcommittee asked for data about how much enrollment has grown and the number of transfer

students this change will affect. According to their data, enrollment has increase by 20% over the last four years. In fall 2012, approximately 78% of new Communication transfer students came in with GPA's at or above 2.5. Thus, this could affect roughly 22% of students seeking to change majors into Communication. Additionally, we asked if they were aware a proposal going to the Board of Regents to raise the University transfer admissions standards up to 2.25, and if this would affect their decision to make this change. They are aware, but want to ensure they have the same standards for transfer students and current students seeking to change a major.

**Recommendation**

We recommend approval of this proposal for implementation in Fall 2013.