

UC 11117 10F

Approved by CLASS USC

Dr. Sarah Fishman

10/12/10
Date

To: Undergraduate Council
Attn: Simon Bott, Chair, Undergraduate Council
Richard Scammel, Undergraduate Council, Degree Programs Chair

APPROVED APR 20 2011

From: Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Martha Dunkelberger, Undergraduate Coordinator
Lynn M. Maher, Department Chair

RECEIVED OCT 15 2010

RE: Undergraduate catalog changes

Date: September 15, 2010

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (COMD) proposes the following four changes to the undergraduate catalog as follows:

Requested change #1:

Current Catalog Language:

Acceptance into the COMD major will only occur upon successful completion of the departmental core. Acceptance in the major is a prerequisite for COMD 3380, Professional Writing in Communication Disorders. The departmental core is successfully completed when the student has earned a grade of B- or better in the following four classes. COMD Core classes may NOT be repeated.

COMD 2338 Phonetics

COMD 2339 Speech and Language Development

COMD 2139 Speech and Language Development Lab

COMD 2376 Anatomy and Physiology for Communication

Proposed:

Any incoming freshman, college transfer, international, or current UH student with an overall GPA of 2.67 interested in majoring in COMD must apply first as a PRE-COMD Major. Pre-COMD majors are required to complete the following prerequisites prior to being approved as COMD majors.

1. Completion of COMD 1333 Introduction to Communication Disorders or its equivalent
2. Completion of COMD Core Courses with grades of B- or better:
 - a. COMD 2439: Speech and Language Development
 - b. COMD 2338: Phonetics
 - c. COMD 2376: Anatomy
3. Completion of a speech, language and hearing screening
4. Earned a minimum overall GPA of 2.67

Once Pre-COMD requirements are completed, students must file a general petition to declare a COMD major. The general petition is subject to evaluation by the advisor, the undergraduate coordinator and the department chair. Students are NOT considered COMD majors until the petition has been approved.

Why is there a COMD Core?

The COMD Core courses (COMD 2439, COMD 2338 and COMD 2376) are foundational courses for our major. They (or their approved equivalents) are required for all Pre-COMD Students in order to ensure that each student has a solid basis on which to build knowledge in later classes. These courses must be completed with a grade of B- or higher and may not be repeated.

Students who have not completed the COMD Core successfully will not be allowed to declare COMD as a major.

Rationale for proposed changes:

1. Identification of students at two levels allows the department to
 - a. Better track our majors
 - i. Currently, it is difficult to tell how many majors we have as students entering as freshmen or as transfer students declare the major in their first semester, but do not persist in the major.
 - ii. Currently, it is difficult to tell how many majors we have as students enroll in one class as freshmen or first semester transfer students but do not declare COMD as a major until late in their academic careers.
 - iii. Currently, it is difficult to direct students who are declared as COMD majors, but are not taking classes in the department or are not actively seeking a degree in COMD.
 - b. Proactively advise students who do not meet the academic standards of the COMD major
 - i. Currently, it is difficult for students who do not meet the academic standards of the department to change majors.
 - ii. Currently, it is difficult to convey the message to TAP advisors and thereby to transfer students that the COMD major requires
 1. At least 6 semesters of sequenced course work.
 2. A minimum grade of B- in all major courses.
2. A two-tiered major allows our departmental advisor to tailor advising to cohorts rather than to individual students.
 - a. Advising of Pre-COMD students can focus on
 - i. retention,
 - ii. transition from High School or Community/Junior College,
 - iii. utilization of tools and services to promote/enhance study skills,
 - iv. comprehension of the rigors of the COMD major, and
 - v. procedures for declaring a major, minor and filing a degree plan.

- b. Advising of COMD Majors can focus on
 - i. graduation requirements,
 - ii. applications to graduate programs, and
 - iii. career guidance.
- 3. Requiring a pre-major designation when students apply will offer our department an opportunity to pro-actively advise students transferring in from Community/Junior college.
 - a. Students can be identified during the application process instead of during the orientation process.
- 4. Additional details changed in catalog language:
 - a. COMD 1333 (Introduction to Communication Sciences and Disorders) is not part of the COMD Core, but is a required course that must be completed with a B- or better before continuing on in the major. The primary difference between this course and the courses that make up the COMD Core is that COMD 1333 can be repeated in order to earn the B- grade.
 - b. COMD 2439 (Speech and Language Development) reflects the joining of COMD 2139 (Speech and Language Development Lab) and COMD 2339 (Speech and Language Development).
 - c. Completion of the speech, language and hearing screening used to take place later in the program. We decided to require it earlier so that students who were identified as requiring further evaluation of their speech, language or hearing would have adequate time to take advantage of services in our University Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic, A United Way Agency at student rates.

Requested Change #2:

Current Catalog Language:

Complete 47 semester hours for the major consisting of the following specific courses:

- o COMD 1333, 2139, 2338, 2339, 2376, 2385, 3375, 3380, 3381, 4333, 4382, 4489, and;

Proposed Change to Catalog Language:

Complete 47 semester hours for the major consisting of the following specific courses:

- o COMD 1333, 2338, 2439, 2376, 2385, 3375, 3380, 3381, 4333, 4382, 4489, and;

Rationale for change:

Joined 2139 and 2339 to create 2439.

Requested Change #3:

Current Catalog Language:

Clinical Procedures, COMD 4489, is a required class and is one of the final courses taken as part of the COMD sequence. This course introduces students to the clinical process and has a strong hands-on component. There is no substitute for this course. The following eligibility requirements are strictly enforced.

- *Only students with senior status should consider enrollment in Clinical Procedures.*
- *Students must have a COMD degree plan filed and approved prior to enrollment.*
- *Students must have a GPA of 2.67 in the COMD major. This includes grades for all COMD courses taken. If a course has been repeated, both grades enter into the calculation.*
- *Ideally, Speech and Language Disorders in Children, COMD 3375, should be completed prior to enrollment in Clinical Procedures. However, it may be taken concurrently with Clinical Procedures, with instructor approval.*

Proposed Change to Catalog Language:

Clinical Procedures, COMD 4489, is a required class and is one of the final courses taken as part of the COMD sequence. This course introduces students to the clinical process and has a strong hands-on component. There is no substitute for this course. The following eligibility requirements are strictly enforced.

- Only COMD majors with senior status may enroll in Clinical Procedures.
- Students must have a COMD major degree plan filed and approved prior to enrollment.
 - Filing a major degree plan is a lengthy process and is dependent upon completion of multiple previous steps.
 - Students are strongly advised to submit a COMD major degree plan for approval in the summer before their fifth semester in COMD.
- Students must have a GPA of 2.67 in the COMD major. This includes grades for all COMD courses taken. If a course has been repeated, both grades enter into the calculation.
- Students must have completed 22 hours of COMD Major classes prior to enrolling in COMD 4489.

Rationale for change:

1. The eligibility requirements are clarified.
2. Requiring a specific number of hours completed rather than a specific course as a prerequisite offers our department advisor a clear criterion for eligibility. As the capstone class, students must have completed a substantial body of work toward the major in order to apply that knowledge in their projects.

Requested Change #4:

Current Catalog Language:

Students must file a degree plan once the following requirements are completed:

1. *60 credit hours must be completed with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 and a COMD major cumulative of not less than 2.67.*
2. *University Core requirements must be completed as follows:*
 - 6 core credits Communications*
 - 6 core credits Math or Math Reasoning*
 - 6 core credits Natural Science (3 credits Biology must be included with a grade of C or better)*
 - 6 core credits U.S. History*
 - 6 core credits Political Science*
 - 3 core credits Social Science*
 - 3 core credits Visual and Performing Arts*
3. *21 major hours must be completed in COMD*
4. *All completed courses that are required by the major must have a grade of B- or better.*
5. *Only one required COMD course may be repeated to achieve this standard.*

Proposed Change:

Students must file a degree plan once the following requirements are completed:

1. A minor must be declared.
2. A minor degree plan must be completed and approved.
3. 60 credit hours must be completed with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 and a COMD major cumulative of not less than 2.67.
4. University Core requirements must be completed as follows:
 - 6 core credits Communications
 - 6 core credits Math or Math Reasoning
 - 6 core credits Natural Science (3 credits Biology must be included with a grade of C or better)
 - 6 core credits U.S. History
 - 6 core credits Political Science
 - 3 core credits Social Science
 - 3 core credits Visual and Performing Arts
5. 18 COMD major hours must be completed.

- a. All completed courses that are required by the major must have a grade of B- or better.
- b. Only one required COMD course may be repeated to achieve this standard.

Rational for change:

1. Added reminders that minor degree plans must be completed before major degree plans could be considered.
2. Items are renumbered to reflect real time completion of requirements.
3. We reduced the number of COMD major hours that must be completed before submitting a degree plan so that students can do so earlier in their programs.

CBM003s Submitted:

1. COMD 2139 (Speech and Language Development Lab): Course eliminated from inventory. Unnecessary laboratory
2. COMD 2439 (Speech and Language Development): Renumbered to include laboratory hour. As this is a Social and Behavioral Sciences Core Course, supporting documentation (Syllabus and Core Course Change request form) is also included.
3. COMD 2376 (Anatomy for Communication): Added "Declared Pre-COMD major" as a prerequisite.
4. COMD 2385 (Speech Science): Added "Declared Pre-COMD major and COMD 2376" as prerequisites.
5. COMD 3375 (Speech and Language Disorders in Children): "Added "Approved COMD Major" as prerequisite.
6. COMD 3380 (Professional Writing in COMD): Added "Approved COMD Major" as a prerequisite.
7. COMD 3381 (Audiology): Added "Approved COMD Major or Approved COMD Minor" as a prerequisite.
8. COMD 4333 (Neuroscience for Communication Disorders): Added "Approved COMD Major" as a prerequisite.
9. COMD 4382 (Aural Rehabilitation): Added "Approved COMD Majors or Approved COMD Minors" as a prerequisite.
10. COMD 4489 (Clinical Procedures): Added "Approved COMD Major with minimum of 22 semester hours of COMD courses completed" and changed "3.0 major GPA "to "2.67 major GPA".