

TO: Lawrence Williams, Chair  
Undergraduate Council

FROM: Richard Scamell  
Academic Policies and Procedures Committee

SUBJECT: Change of Grade Point Average Requirement  
Department of Health and Human Performance (UC 8499 05S)

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This report considers a request to raise the departmental entrance requirement to all current certified and non-certified degree programs offered in the Department of Health and Human Performance from a 2.00 to a 2.30 grade point average. Participating in a discussion of this request held on Tuesday, June 28 were committee members Joel Bloom, Mario Lucchesi, Richard Scamell and Rebecca Achee Thornton.

## Background

The Department of Health and Human Performance offers a variety of Bachelor of Science degrees:

- B.S. degrees in Health and Kinesiology with secondary certification,
- B.S. degrees in Health and Kinesiology (Exercise Science and Sports Administration) without teacher certification,
- a B.S. degree in Kinesiology with all-level certification,
- a B.S. degree in Human Nutrition and Foods with American Dietetic Association certification, and
- a B.S. degree in Human Nutrition and Foods without American Dietetic Association certification.

Several interrelated reasons were offered in support of this request. One is the continued growth in the number of students interested in occupations affiliated with health care and wellness (e.g., physical therapy, occupational therapy, fitness trainers and aerobics instructors, dieticians, health educators, physician assistants, etc.) listed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics as among the fastest growing occupations in the United States. Over the past ten years, this growth has resulted in an increase in the number of majors from 500 to 1350 students. On the negative side, the Department of Health and Human Performance is unable to accommodate this growth in demand as a result of a reduction in classroom and lab space due to (a) the relocation of the Math Emporium to Garrison Gymnasium, a space that was previously used to teach many of the Department's teacher preparation and physical activity courses and (b) the loss of the large classroom in Garrison 205 to the Department of Mathematics for exclusive use in teaching math courses. In addition, over the past ten years, this increased student demand has been accompanied by a twenty-five percent decrease in tenure-track faculty positions (from 20 to 15) and thus greater reliance on part-time lecturers which creates a strain on program quality and consistency. The imposition of the proposed entrance requirement is seen as a way to simultaneously control enrollment and improve the quality of the students entering the department. Finally, the Department has conducted an analysis of the entering grade point average of all current Health and Human Performance students and has determined that no particular demographic (gender, ethnic, or program area) would be disproportionately impacted by the raising of the departmental entrance grade point average.

## Recommendation

While it is not known by how much this change in admission requirements will reduce the number of students in the Department of Health and Human Performance, the Committee unanimously supports the wishes of both the Department as approved by the College of Education to raise its admissions standards. In order to communicate the new admission requirement to students interested in majoring in the Department of Health and Human Performance, the Committee recommends that a section entitled 'Admissions Requirements' be inserted in the section of Undergraduate Studies Catalog that describes the Department of Health and Human Performance degree programs and courses. Further, the Committee recommends that this section follow the sections 'Physical Education Fee' and 'Degree Programs' and precede the section 'Degrees with Certification.'

## Suggested Statement of Admission Requirements for the Undergraduate Studies Catalog

In order to become a major in any of the certified and non-certified degree programs offered in the Department of Health and Human Performance, University of Houston students who have completed 15-60 hours of college level work at the University of Houston or other schools must have a minimum 2.30 cumulative grade point average on all college course work. University of Houston students who have completed 60 or more semester hours of college level work at either the University of Houston or other schools must have a minimum 2.30 cumulative grade point average in the last 60 semester hours to enter one of the Department's degree programs. The computation of the grade point average over the last 60 semester hours will include all grades for the semester in which the sixtieth hour occurs. Students on probation or suspension are not eligible enter one of the Department's degree programs.

