

UC 8844 065

JUSTIFICATION FOR UC 8785 05F  
CHANGE IN GPA FOR COMD MAJORS

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Students come into the COMD program with little knowledge regarding the amount of science and math involved in completing this major. In most universities communication disorders is part of a college of departments leading to degrees in healthcare. At the University of Houston we are part of CLASS. Students assume we are a liberal arts or social science. In reality a degree in COMD requires a very good foundation in science and math.

Students who start the program and finish with GPAs of less than 3.2 have no chance of getting into any of the programs leading to the Masters Degree in Speech-Language Pathology. The GPA in the major usually has to be a 3.5 to gain a place in a graduate program. The competition for a seat in graduate COMD departments is keen throughout the United States. Unfortunately, the Masters Degree is required to practice speech-language pathology in all fifty states. There is no job for someone with a B.A. or B.S. in COMD who cannot get into a graduate program.

We want to help the University meet its goal of graduating students in six years or less and, of course, with as few hours as possible over 120. We also want students to graduate with some type of employment prospect. Therefore we have decided to drop those students who do not perform in the very basic classes at a level compatible with the prospect of graduate school. We are doing this with the four classes that students take at the very beginning of their COMD program. This way they do not waste credit hours, time and money trying to continue on in the program when they have not completed a basic class with an 80% average. We feel this is in the students' best interest. They are encouraged to go to the Career Center and obtain advice regarding a field that may be more suitable to their talents and may not require a graduate education.

2/2/06

*Sam L*

IN SUPPORT OF

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SEE ALSO, LANGUAGE APPROVED

BY DEGREE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

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