

September 9, 2008

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Memo: Changes in Communication Sciences and Disorders for Fall 2009

To: Committee Members

To preface our proposed changes, our stated goals for our Undergraduate program are 1) producing students who are knowledgeable about culturally diverse persons of all ages, especially as they exist in an urban environment, 2) who think critically, and 3) are well prepared for graduate study in communication disorders.

Attached please find the changes proposed to the Undergraduate Curriculum in Communication Sciences and Disorders. Our department recently underwent an extensive self-study process in preparation for an external review. We reviewed our course sequence and compared it to others around the state and around the country. The external review team expressly recommended that we evaluate our course offerings and sequencing in this light. With that recommendation, we propose the following three changes to our curriculum.

First, we felt that the courses in the major could be better framed sequentially. We identified courses that were foundational to our academic mission. Some of these courses were traditionally offered late in students' program of study, so we have proposed that they be renumbered and, if necessary, renamed and re-described in the catalog. We also added a laboratory requirement for one of the foundation courses that not only meets the need of additional exposure to foundation experiences, but addresses our second need as well.

Second, we recognized that our undergraduate major was focused too stringently on the disorders aspect of our field. This potentially limited our students' opportunities following undergraduate study and many did not continue on to graduate study. We felt that this met neither our goals as a department, nor the University's goals to increase undergraduate students' involvement in scientific inquiry. As mentioned above, we have added a laboratory experience to one of our foundation courses. Additionally, we have collapsed two of our disorders courses into one, opening up the opportunity for the development of elective classes in language science, advanced analysis of language development, studies in bilingual development of speech and language and directed research seminars. These courses will be offered as Selected Topics courses over the next two years.

Finally, in keeping with the Undergraduate Research Initiative, we felt the need to open up opportunities for directed research course development. We adjusted prerequisites and sequence leading up to our current senior level clinical course and have proposed reactivation of Senior Thesis credit courses. The department has one student currently completing a Senior Thesis under the Special Problems designation. Undergraduate students are being actively recruited for research opportunities in our foundation classes.

We expect to add a course in Directed Research in Communication Sciences and Disorders (taught initially as a Selected Topics class) in the 2009-10 academic year.

We are submitting 23 CBM003 Forms to meet these stated goals. A brief description of each CBM003 form is included as an attachment with this document.



Thank you for your consideration of the requested changes.

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Undergraduate Program Coordinator/ Clinical Assistant Professor

CC:

Lynn M. Maher, Ph.D . CCC-SLP  
Department Chair/ Professor

Sandra Gold-Singleton, MA  
Academic Advisor/ Lecturer

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Current Requirements		Proposed Changes		Justification		CBM Submitted
1	Complete 46 semester hours for the major consisting of the following specific courses	Specific Courses	Specific Courses	Specific Courses	Specific Courses	
	Introduction to Communication Disorders	COMD 1333		No longer req		
	Phonetics	COMD 2238		COMD 2238		
	Speech, Hearing and Language Development of the Normal Child	COMD 2339	Speech and Language Development	COMD 2339		X
			Speech and Language Development Lab		This is a new laboratory experience assigned to majors and intended majors in Communication Sciences and Disorders. In this lab, students will gather laboratory samples of typical language in a variety of developmental stages and learn to analyze the samples using computer technology. It is taken in conjunction with COMD 2339.	X
	Anatomy and Physiology of the Vocal Mechanism	COMD 2376	Anatomy and Physiology for Communication	COMD 2376	This course is renamed to better reflect the course content	X
	Professional Writing in Communication Disorders	COMD 2380		COMD 3380	This course is sequenced as the first course our majors take after completing the foundation courses. It requires a level of analysis that we felt was better reflected with a 3000 level designation.	X
	Phonological Disorders	COMD 3371		Deleted	The instructional material in this course will be absorbed in a new course. Eliminating this course will allow for a refocus of our curriculum on the science of human communication.	X
	Fundamentals of Audiology	COMD 3381	Audiology	COMD 3381	Prerequisite changed to better reflect newly proposed COMD sequence of classes.	X
	Language Disorders	COMD 3383		Deleted	The instructional material in this course will be absorbed in a new course. Eliminating this course will allow for a refocus of our curriculum on the science of human communication.	X
	Neurogenic Communication Disorders	COMD 4333	Speech and Language Disorders in Children	COMD 3375	This is a new proposed course, including material covered previously in COMD 3371 and COMD 3383.	X
	Management for Individuals with Hearing Impairment	COMD 4382	Neuroscience for Communication Disorders	COMD 4333	This course is renamed to better reflect the course content.	X
			Aural Rehabilitation	COMD 4382	This course is renamed to better reflect the course content.	X
	Speech Science	COMD 4385		COMD 2385	This course is re-numbered in order to reflect the new sequence of courses in the Communication Sciences and Disorders major. This course is part of our foundation courses.	X
	Clinical Procedures II	COMD 4390	Clinical Procedures II	Deleted	This course is deleted	X
	Clinical Procedures I	COMD 4489	Clinical Procedures	COMD 4489	This course is renamed to better reflect the course content.	X
			Senior Honors Thesis in COMD	COMD 3399	This course is reactivated	X
			Senior Honors Thesis in COMD	COMD 4399	This course is reactivated	X

Current Requirements	Proposed Changes	Justification	Submitted
Specific Courses	Specific Courses	Specific Courses	Specific Courses
Science of Sound	PHYS 2340 Social Science Methods	No longer required Social Science Methods	This course will continue to be offered as an option, but will no longer be a required course in the major.
2 All COMD majors will be advised by COMD undergraduate faculty and staff advisor(s).	PSYC 2350 or 2351 Biology	PSYC 2350 or 2351 Biology	
3 All COMD courses must be completed with a grade no lower than B-.		All COMD majors will be advised by COMD undergraduate faculty and staff advisor(s). All COMD courses must be completed with a grade no lower than B-. This includes the course taken to fulfill the social science methods requirement.	Clarity
4 The Communication Sciences and Disorders core classes consist of the following: COMD 2338, 2339, and either 2376 or PHYS 2340. All COMD core classes must be completed with a grade of B- or higher to continue in the program. No repeating of COMD core classes is accepted. COMD can be declared as a major only after successful completion of COMD core courses. Acceptance in the major is a prerequisite for COMD 2380, Professional Writing In Communication Disorders.		Acceptance into the COMD major will only occur upon successful completion of the departmental core. The departmental core is successfully completed when you have earned a grade of B- or better in the first four of the following five classes. COMD 2338 Phonetics COMD 2339 Speech and Language Development COMD 2139 Speech and Language Development Lab COMD 2376 Anatomy and Physiology for Communication OR COMD 2385 Speech Science	PHYS 2340 is no longer a required course. The COMD Core is now made up of four of the five foundation courses in the curriculum.
5 If a grade of B- or higher is not earned in any COMD course (including approved alternates for Social Science Methods courses), that course must be repeated and passed with a grade of B- or higher. Enrollment will not be allowed in any COMD course for which the course that received a lower than B- grade is a prerequisite until successfully repeated.		Acceptance in the major is a prerequisite for COMD 3380, Professional Writing In Communication Disorders. Complete 38 semester hours for the major consisting of the following specific courses	Clarity

Current Requirements	Proposed Changes	Justification	Submitted
Specific Courses	Specific Courses	Specific Courses	Submitted
<p>6 A noncore COMD course may be repeated only once regardless of the grade earned. In addition, only one course can be repeated. Continuance in the major after two B- or lower grades in COMD courses will be granted only on successful petition to the COMD faculty. Further enrollment will not be allowed after receipt of a third grade below B- in a COMD course.</p>	<p>Students who earn more than one grade below a B- may petition the faculty to remain in the major. A faculty meeting to consider petitions is scheduled at the end of the fall and spring semesters.</p> <p>Please see the COMD Academic Advisor for guidance in writing a strong petition letter and to determine specific dates for submission.</p>	<p>Clarity</p>	
<p>7 All COMD majors must pass a speech, voice and language proficiency test prior to enrollment in Clinical Procedures, COMD 4489</p>	<p>All COMD majors must pass a speech, voice and language proficiency test prior to enrollment in Clinical Procedures, COMD 4489</p>		
<p>8 Enrollment in COMD 4489 requires a grade point average of 2.67 in the major and completion of the following courses: COMD 1333, 2338, 2339, 2376, 3371, and 3383. Concurrent enrollment in COMD 4489 and 3371 or 3383 will be allowed with instructor permission. Student must have filed a degree plan before enrollment in COMD 4489.</p>	<p>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. <i>There is no substitute for this course.</i></p> <p>The following eligibility requirements are strictly enforced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Only students with senior status should consider enrollment in Clinical Procedures.</li> <li>*Students must have a degree plan filed and approved.</li> <li>*Students must have a GPA of 2.67 in the major. This includes grades for all COMD courses taken. If a course has been repeated, both grades enter into the calculation.</li> <li>*Ideally, COMD 3375, Speech and Language Disorders in Children should be completed prior to enrollment in Clinical Procedures. However, it may be taken concurrently with Clinical Procedures, with instructor approval.</li> </ul>	<p>Clarity</p>	
<p>9 Students who register for advanced classes in COMD without successful completion of the prerequisites will be dropped by the instructor. Neither the department nor the instructor will be responsible for tuition refunds.</p>	<p>Students who register for advanced classes in COMD without successful completion of the prerequisites will be dropped by the instructor. Neither the department nor the instructor will be responsible for tuition refunds.</p>		

Current Requirements	Proposed Changes	Specific Courses	Justification	Submitted CBM
<p>10 Courses in the major that are seven or more years old may not count toward a degree whether taken at the University of Houston or transferred to the University of Houston. A minimum of twelve hours of advanced COMD courses must be taken in residence in the department.</p>	<p>Courses in the major that are seven or more years old may not count toward a degree whether taken at the University of Houston or transferred to the University of Houston. A minimum of twelve hours of advanced COMD courses must be taken in residence in the department.</p>			
<p>11 All students should file a degree plan through the COMD department as soon as the first 21 credits in COMD are completed. Students should file a degree plan no later than the semester before they plan to graduate.</p> <p>Minimum requirements to file a degree plan include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Junior standing (60 or more semester hours) with at least a 2.00 grade point average.</li> <li>* Completion of all the core curriculum requirements in communications, history, mathematics, American government, social/behavioral science, and natural science.</li> <li>* Completion of the first 21 credits in COMD including the COMD core with at least a 2.67 GPA in the major.</li> </ul>	<p>Students must file a degree plan once the following three requirements are completed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 21 major hours must be completed in COMD *all completed courses that are required by the major must have a grade of B- or better.</li> <li>*only one required course may be repeated to achieve this standard.</li> <li>2. 60 credit hours must be completed with a cumulative g.p.a. of 2.0 and a cumulative g.p.a. of not less than 2.67 in the major.</li> <li>3. University Core requirements must be complete as follows:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* 6 credits core Communications</li> <li>* 6 credits core Math or Math Reasoning</li> <li>* 6 credits core Natural Science (3 credits Biology included with a grade of C or better.)</li> <li>* 6 credits core U.S. History</li> <li>* 6 credits core Political Science</li> <li>* 3 credits core Social Science</li> </ul> </li> </ol>		Clarity	