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Approved by CLASS  
Undergraduate Studies Committee

  
Dr. David Phillips      2-6-2012  
Date



**Memorandum**

**RECEIVED FEB 06 2012**

TO: Dr. David Phillips, Interim Associate Dean, CLASS  
FROM: Dr. Beth Olson, Director, Valenti School of Communication, ext. 3-2881  
DATE: Jan. 27, 2012  
RE: Proposal for change in GPA required to declare a major in Communication

**Background:**

The Valenti School has had the good fortune to see enrollment steadily increase in the last several years to as many as 200 new majors in fall, 2011. However, the Valenti School struggles with allocating adequate instructional and classroom resources to allow these students to make timely progress toward graduation. In fall, 2012 there were approximately 1,800 undergraduate majors.

In determining how to deal with the increased demand and with a commitment to continued quality in our program, the question of increasing our minimum GPA came to the forefront. According to our data, in mid-January 2012, 200 communication majors had a GPA below 2.0. There were 500 communication majors with a GPA between 2.00 and 2.25.

Although an increase in our minimum GPA likely will result in a reduction of students in the short term, we believe students serious about a degree in communication will rise to meet our standards.

The proposal we are submitting was approved by the Undergraduate Committee Feb. 1, 2012 and endorsed by the faculty at our spring meeting Jan. 12, 2012

Action:  
Increase the GPA required to declare a major in communication from 2.00 to 2.25.

Thank you.

If approved, the catalog language in all sections affected would read:

***General Requirements for the Jack J. Valenti School of Communication***

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 72 hours. Then they must choose a concentration.

All undergraduate majors in the Jack J. Valenti School of Communication must complete, with a GPA of at least 2.002.25, 12 semester hours as follows:

3. To graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in communication, students must achieve:

- a. A 2.002.25 cumulative GPA in all courses that count toward the major with at least a C in each.
- b. No COMM course for major (or minor) may be retaken more than twice.

### ***Minor in Film Studies***

Students seeking a minor in film studies must meet the following requirements:

3. A minimum 2.002.25 cumulative grade point average for all courses attempted in the minor at the University of Houston with at least a **C** in each course.

### ***Minor in Jack J. Valenti School of Communication Concentrations***

Students may minor in any of the school's concentrations. For each concentration minor, students must complete **COMM 1301** and **1302**, plus 12 COMM hours in the concentration, of which nine must be advanced and nine must be in residence. Students must have a 2.002.25 GPA for all courses attempted in the minor at the University of Houston, with at least a **C** in each course.