

ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY



University Curriculum Committee

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October 16, 2013

TO: Daniel Holland, Chair, Academic Senate
FROM: Mark Temple, Chair, University Curriculum Committee ~~MARK~~
RE: Proposals for Deletion of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders Speech Pathology and Audiology Sequences

The University Curriculum Committee has approved and is forwarding for Academic Senate review the attached proposal to delete the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders sequences in Speech Pathology and Audiology.

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders proposes deletion of the two sequences that are currently under the Major in Communication Sciences and Disorders heading in the catalog. The department offered the following rationale for reinventing their undergraduate curriculum by collapsing the two sequences into the major:

- The proposed curricular changes are based on the newly formulated transformational goal of the undergraduate program: Provide students with foundational knowledge, skills and professional dispositions needed to succeed in further studies in CSD and other career opportunities.
- Approximately 80% of CSD undergraduates gain acceptance into graduate programs. A master's degree is the entry-level degree for the field of speech language pathology; a clinical doctorate is the entry-level degree for the field of audiology. The undergraduate curriculum also needs to support students who do not go on to graduate school by assisting them in utilizing their CSD skill set in other careers.
- Over the past two years, CSD department members met and discussed specific areas of communication and sciences disorders that were over- and under-represented in the present curricular offerings. The proposal to collapse the two sequences into the major was a result of information gleaned from those discussions.
- A single major unifies the undergraduate program and emphasizes the importance of both professions (Speech Pathology and Audiology) and can be directly correlated to CSD's transformational goal. All students majoring in CSD would have the option to pursue either an advanced degree (all proposed required coursework in the undergraduate CSD major meets the prerequisite coursework for either graduate degree, an MS in Speech Language Pathology or an AuD).
- Additionally, the number of audiology majors is typically minimal (3-5) and these students usually complete the additional CSD courses that are required for speech language pathology majors as their electives.
- Due to the breadth and depth of the content in the field of Communication Sciences and Disorders, the proposed changes will better prepare CSD undergraduate students to

compete against the undergraduates of other programs seeking admission to graduate schools.

- The proposed deletion of the sequences is necessary to move all of the necessary requirements to the major. The major will have curriculum from both sequences that are being deleted.
- The proposed revisions will reinforce to students that they are provided with appropriate transferrable skills and professional dispositions in order to pursue alternative careers should they not pursue or be admitted into a Master's Degree program in Speech Language Pathology or a Clinical Doctorate program in Audiology.

The Department indicated that since the sequences will be subsumed within the major in Communication Sciences and Disorders, this change will not impact the offering of courses required for students in CSD. Students currently in the sequences will be transitioned to the proposed revised major.

If approved by the Academic Senate the Speech Pathology Sequence and the Audiology Sequence will be removed from the *2014-2016 Undergraduate Catalog*.

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Attachments