

**SPECIAL REPORT
OF THE
GRADUATE COUNCIL**

concerning

**REVISION OF A DEGREE PROGRAM
IN
COMMUNICATION DISORDERS
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY (MA)
(#5726)**

**Presented at the
789th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
October 17, 2019**

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Sonia Alvarez, Pamela Aselton, Joseph Black, D. Anthony Butterfield, Ana Caicedo, David Cort, Robert DeConto, Jennifer Frierman, Mark Hamin, Neil Immerman, Cynthia Jacelon, Ramakrishna Janaswamy, Barbara Krauthamer, John Lopes, Martina Nieswandt, MJ Peterson, Sarah Pfatteicher, Sarah Poissant, Rebecca Reznik-Zellen, Frederic Schaffer, Patrick Sullivan, David Vaillancourt, Tilman Wolf, Kristine Yu

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

The Graduate Council recommends approval of this proposal.

Please describe your proposal

The one change proposed in this program revision application is the addition of a required comprehensive exam, the passing of which would be one of a number of graduation requirements. As a result of this new requirement, all students will take a case-based multiple choice exam and those students who do not pass any portion of the written exam will be provided feedback about their area(s) of deficiency and will then participate in an oral follow-up. Students who do not pass the oral follow-up will be offered one final chance for remediation in the form of a written essay/long form paper. If a student is unable to

demonstrate content knowledge after this third opportunity, he/she will be dismissed from the program.

Please describe the existing program requirements, listing all required courses and available electives, as well as any additional requirements, and continuation or admissions policies.

The following academic and clinical courses are required of students enrolled in our two-year master's program in speech-language pathology:

Comm-Dis 520 Counseling

Comm-Dis 530 Neurological Substrates & Neuropathologies of Speech, Language, and Hearing

Comm-Dis 580 Cognitive Bases of Language

Comm-Dis 591C Augmentative and Alternative Communication

Comm-Dis 610 Phonological Disorders

Comm-Dis 611 Fluency & Craniofacial Disorders

Comm-Dis 612 Voice Disorders

Comm-Dis 613 Adult Language I

Comm-Dis 614 Adult Language II

Comm-Dis 615 Evaluation Processes

Comm-Dis 624 Motor Speech Disorders

Comm-Dis 631 Child Language I

Comm-Dis 632 Child Language II

Comm-Dis 691D Dysphagia

Comm-Dis 698A On-campus practicum (typically Fall and Spring of Year 1)

Comm-Dis 698B Off-campus practicum (typically Summer, Fall and Spring of Year 2)

Available electives include:

Comm-Dis 540 Autism Spectrum Disorders

Comm-Dis 570 Research in Communication Disorders

Please describe the requirements that you are proposing, listing course requirements, elective options, as well as any additional requirements, and continuation or admissions policies.

All of the above listed academic and clinical requirements would remain in effect in the revised program. In addition to those requirements, students would be required to take and pass a comprehensive exam based upon the knowledge gained in their academic courses.

Please provide the rationale for these revisions.

Our master's program in speech-language pathology does not currently require students to take a comprehensive exam. This is problematic for several reasons, including the following:

(1) Our accrediting body requires us to demonstrate that we employ summative assessment measures. We expect that when we undergo our next accreditation review (scheduled for next year) our past practice of pointing to final course exams will no longer meet this accreditation requirement. As a faculty we agree that course exams do not serve as a true summative assessment and that a comprehensive exam is required to meet this accreditation standard.

(2) The majority of US-based master's programs in speech-language pathology do require a comprehensive exam, suggesting we are currently not following best practices in our field. We would like to bring our program into line with our peer institutions.

(3) We have internal inconsistency as students enrolled in our audiology graduate training program are already required to take written comprehensive exams.

If this proposal requires no additional resources, say so and briefly explain why. If this proposal requires additional resources, explain how they will be paid for. For proposals involving instruction, indicate how many new enrollments are expected and whether the courses have room to accommodate them.

This requires no additional resources. The existing speech-language pathology faculty will write and grade the comprehensive exams. We do not expect any changes to enrollment.

MOTION: 09-20 That the Faculty Senate approve the Revision of a Degree Program In Communication Disorders Speech-Language Pathology (MA) as presented in Sen Doc. No. 20-021.