November 27, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Townshend
Dean, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

FROM: Elizabeth Beise
Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to Modify the Master of Arts in Hearing and Speech Sciences (PCC log no. 12016)

At its meeting on November 2, 2012, the Senate Committee on Programs, Curricula and Courses approved your proposal to modify the Master of Arts in Hearing and Speech Sciences. A copy of the approved proposal is attached.

The change is effective Spring 2013. Please ensure that the change is fully described in the Graduate Catalog and in all relevant descriptive materials, and that all advisors are informed.

MDC/
Enclosure

cc: William Idsardi, Chair, Senate PCC Committee
Sarah Bauder, Office of Student Financial Aid
Reka Montfort, University Senate
Erin Howard, Division of Information Technology
Donna Williams, Institutional Research, Planning & Assessment
Anne Turkos, University Archives
Linda Yokoi, Office of the Registrar
Mark Shayman, Graduate School
Wayne McIntosh, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences
Nan Ratner, Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences
THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK
PROGRAM/CURRICULUM/UNIT PROPOSAL

- Please email the rest of the proposal as an MSWord attachment to pcc-submissions@umd.edu.
- Please submit the signed form to the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs, 1119 Main Administration Building, Campus.

College/School: BSOS

Please also add College/School Unit Code-First 8 digits: 01202800
Unit Codes can be found at: https://hypprod.umd.edu/Html_Reports/units.htm

Department/Program:
Please also add Department/Program Unit Code-Last 7 digits: 1281901

Type of Action (choose one):

- Curriculum change (including informal specializations)
- New academic degree/award program
- Renaming of program or formal Area of Concentration
- New Professional Studies award iteration
- Addition/deletion of formal Area of Concentration
- New Minor
- Suspend/delete program
- Other

Italics indicate that the proposed program action must be presented to the full University Senate for consideration.

Summary of Proposed Action:

Our MA degree requires students to take 36 credits worth of academic courses. However, our program is intended to prepare professional Speech-Language Pathologists, and as part of this preparation, students are also required to take approximately 15 credits worth of clinical experiential credits. These clinical credits are graded, and thus currently contribute to overall GPAs. We would like the GPA standards of the university (i.e., the requirement to maintain a 3.0 GPA) to apply separately to the two types of courses; in this way, good clinical performance could not compensate for poor academic grades.

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APPROVAL SIGNATURES - Please print name, sign, and date. Use additional lines for multi-unit programs.

1. Department Committee Chair
   [Signature] 9/13/12

2. Department Chair
   [Signature] 9/13/12

3. College/School PCC Chair
   Martha E. Geores 9/20/12

4. Dean
   Katherine M. Baardsley 11/5/12

5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)
   [Signature] 11/5/12

6. Chair, Senate PCC
   [Signature] 11/12/12

7. University Senate Chair (if required)
   [Signature] 11/30/12

8. Senior Vice President and Provost
   [Signature] 11/30/12
Overview of the Program

The program leading to the Master of Arts degree in Hearing and Speech Sciences is an academically based, clinically oriented, full-time program designed primarily to prepare professional Speech-Language Pathologists. The program requires 36 credits worth of academic coursework. However, in order to practice as a Speech-Language Pathologist, almost all employers and jurisdictions require the prospective employee to hold the Certificate of Clinical Competence, which requires supervised clinical practicum. Thus, students in our graduate program take an additional 15 credits of supervised clinical practicum. These courses are not required to receive the MA degree, but nearly all students who pursue the MA degree wish to pursue clinical certification, and thus take these courses.

Current grade requirements

Currently, students are required to maintain a 3.0 GPA overall by the graduate school (including both academic coursework and clinical practica). In addition, students receiving a grade lower than a B- in their clinical practica are reviewed by the faculty to determine eligibility for future practicum placement; students who receive below a B- are generally required to redo their clinical placement before moving on to the next clinical experience.

Proposed grade requirements

In the current system, students who perform poorly in their clinical practicum are not allowed to advance in that domain; high grades in academic coursework cannot compensate for poor clinical performance. However, because the GPA requirements by the graduate school apply to all coursework, students who perform LESS than a 3.0 on the academic coursework but do particularly well in their clinical practica can still graduate; that is, A-level work in clinical practica can actually make up for poor academic performance.

We would like to close this loophole, holding students to the graduate school 3.0 minimum in their academic coursework.

The proposed wording for our graduate handbook would be as listed below; only #1 is a substantive change.

The Graduate School requires that students maintain a 3.0 overall GPA (including both academic coursework and clinical practica); students with GPAs below this go on academic probation. However, our department has slightly more specific requirements, above and beyond these graduate-school requirements:

1. A minimum grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) is required for all academic courses taken after matriculation as a graduate student. Academic courses include all courses other than 648A, 648B, 649A, 649B, and 728. (Please note that students typically receive satisfactory/unsatisfactory grades for candidacy papers, such that these registrations will not affect GPAs.)

2. Clinical practicum requirements are that students receive a minimum grade of B-; students not meeting that requirement will be reviewed by the faculty to determine eligibility for future practicum placement.

3. Students pursuing prerequisite coursework (that is, students with provisional admission) must maintain a 3.25 GPA in these courses in order to maintain their eligibility for graduate-level coursework.

Finally, the Graduate School determines probationary status on the basis of graduate-level coursework only – this includes courses 400-level and above. Thus, a student who is taking prerequisite coursework needs not only to maintain an overall 3.25 GPA, but must also be above a 3.0 when only the courses at the 400-level and above are considered.

A student on academic probation at the end of a given semester is not eligible for outside placement during the next semester (he or she must register for a semester of in-house practicum). Moreover, students cannot graduate, take comprehensive exams, or defend a thesis while on academic probation.

Please note that it is the student's responsibility to calculate his or her own GPA and to ensure continued non-probationary status.