

REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue - why the issue is being considered:

The Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders (CSD) is proposing a credit bearing certificate in Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA). The 15-16 credit certificate is designed to provide students majoring in CSD with additional training and experience that would qualify them for national certification as a speech-language pathology assistant, as well as state licensure in states that currently license SLPAs. There is growing demand within the field of communication sciences and disorders for individuals with this training to fill positions in schools, outpatient clinics, and other healthcare settings.

Points Discussed by Committee:

1. Courses not yet found in catalog
2. Student ability to complete the certificate in timely manner

Pros of Recommendation:

Students in the CSD major who have interest in working as a speech-language pathology assistant may pursue the certificate and will complete requirements for national certification as an SLPA. The required coursework will build upon the CSD major and provide the necessary internship in which the student earns the required clock hours working with individuals with various communication needs under the supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist, as well as related coursework that will prepare the student for working in school-based and outpatient clinical settings. Non-CSD departments offering courses are supportive. The CSD 471 course is created and has been submitted for approval and will be in catalog fall 2023; the remaining elective course, focused on serving adults with communication needs, is under development and will be added in the following academic year; currently available positions are in pediatric settings, so the development of adult-focused coursework is not urgent.

Cons of Recommendation:

There is a potential for this coursework to increase student time to degree. However, students in CSD who are likely to add this certificate often complete the prerequisites anyway so they should be able to stay on track for graduation while adding this certificate. The new course, CSD 471, will be taken instead of CSD 470 for students who opt to complete the certificate. No current license exists in Wisconsin, although department faculty and state organizations are working with legislators on adding this licensure. Currently school districts are hiring SLPAs through alternative licenses (e.g., paraprofessionals).

Technology/Human Resource Impact:

No technology impact. Human resources will be required to secure the CSD 471 internship placements for students. CSD has a process in place already for the graduate programs which will be expanded to include these students.

Committee Recommendation:

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT CERTIFICATE

The committee recommends approval of the credit bearing certificate in: Speech-Language Pathology Assistant to be administered by the Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders.

MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

by a vote of 7 for to 0 against on February 7, 2023 (Date)

Recommends that:

The Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders will offer a credit bearing certificate:
Certificate in Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (Code XXX-XXX) starting with the 2023/24 AY.

Implementation Date: 23/24 catalog

Signed: _____

Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office