GRADUATE COUNCIL
PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN EXISTING COURSE/PROGRAM

ORIGINATING UNIT: Communication Sciences and Disorders (COSD)

TYPE OF ACTION:
_______  Change in existing course
_____X____  Change in existing program

TYPE OF CHANGE REQUESTED:
_______  Number   __________  Title
_______  Description   __________  Prerequisite(s)
_______  Drop course/program   _____X______  Program Requirements
_______  Other (specify)

Semester and Year Change(s) take effect:
Fall 2010

Appropriate Computer Abbreviation (30 spaces or less):

DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE (omit if dropping a course or program):
(1) Alter catalog description to accurately reflect programmatic requirements. Wording in the current catalog reads as if there are only 36 hours required for the M.S. in Speech-Language Pathology. In reality we have 2 master’s tracks, a monolingual track which requires 39 credit hours and a bilingual track which requires 42 credit hours. The current catalog did not accurately reflect programmatic requirements – the proposed change corrects this and explains requirements in greater detail (2) Increase the minimum required credit hours for a master’s of science in Speech-Language Pathology by 6 credit hours.

Present catalog copy:
To pursue the MS in Speech-Language Pathology, students must possess a bachelor's degree, including at least 24 hours in approved speech-language pathology courses. Students must select course distributions that will allow for the completion of academic and clinical requirements for the ASHA, CCC-SLP. While the student must enroll for clinical practicum each semester, no more than six semester hours’ credit may be used to satisfy degree requirements. A minimum of 375 clock hours of clinical practice, 325 hours of which must be on the graduate level, is required.

Plan I
This program requires a minimum of 30 approved hours, including COSD 70323; 21 hours in speech-language pathology; and six hours of thesis. A final comprehensive examination based on the thesis is required.
Plan II
This plan requires a minimum of 36 approved hours, including COSD 70323; 27 hours in speech-language pathology; and six hours selected with the advice of the major professor. A final comprehensive examination consisting of both written and oral portions is required.

Proposed catalog copy:
To pursue the MS in Speech-Language Pathology, students must possess a bachelor's degree, including at least 24 hours in approved speech-language pathology courses.

Course distributions leading to the MS in Speech-Language Pathology will allow for the completion of compulsory academic and clinical training required by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) for professional certification in the field of Speech-Language Pathology (Certificate of Clinical Competence in SLP, CCC-SLP). While the student must enroll for clinical practicum each semester, no more than six semester credit hours may be used to satisfy degree requirements. A minimum of 375 clock hours of supervised clinical practice, 325 hours of which must be on the graduate level, is required.

The Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders offers two tracks within the graduate program leading to the master's of science: (1) a monolingual track and (2) a bilingual track. Both tracks require a core of 45 credit hours, which includes COSD 60273 and COSD 60343 to ensure that all of our students receive a multicultural education at the graduate level. The bilingual track requires an additional 3 credit hours, consisting of COSD 60233.

Additionally, the clinical training experiences of students in the bilingual track include children and adults whose primary language is one other than English.

In both the monolingual and bilingual tracks, students have the option to complete a thesis. The requirements for the thesis and non-thesis options are as follows:

Thesis Option
This option requires a minimum of 45 hours for students electing the monolingual track of study, and 48 hours for students electing the bilingual track of study. Students are required to complete COSD 70323 and six hours of thesis. Thesis hours will be taken in lieu of other coursework. A final comprehensive examination based on the thesis is required.

Non-Thesis Option
This program requires a minimum of 45 hours for students electing the monolingual track of study, and 48 hours for students electing the bilingual track of study. Students are required to complete COSD 70323. A final comprehensive examination consisting of both written and oral portions is required, and is based on the academic and clinical experiences of the students during their program of study.

Supporting EVIDENCE OR JUSTIFICATION:
In the past students have needed a minimum of 36 hours to meet accreditation and certification requirements of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, which is the profession’s national certifying body. However, over the past several years these requirements have broadened in response to an expanding scope of practice. The proposed changes are in response to this expansion and needed to maintain accreditation standards for our academic program and certification of our students. The increase adds 6 additional credit hours to the typical (i.e., not minimum, but rather what the actual program requires) requirements of students currently pursuing a master’s degree in Speech-language Pathology (i.e., currently 39 hours for monolingual track students and 42 hours for bilingual track students). Students in the
monolingual track will now be required to complete 45 credit hours, and students in the bilingual track will be required to complete 48 credit hours. Historically, students completing a thesis were required to complete the same number of credit hours as non-thesis students. This expectation was not reflected in the original catalog copy. The course add/change/drop forms which accompany this course/program change form are summarized in the attached document.

Explain how the change(s) will affect the current outcomes and assessment mechanisms?
N/A

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES REQUIRED:
Faculty: N/A

Space: N/A

Equipment: N/A

Library: N/A

Other:

CHANGE IN TEACHING LOAD:
Does this change affect any other units of the University? _____ Yes ___ X_ No

If yes, submit supporting statement signed by chair of affected unit.

If cross-listed, provide evidence of approval by all curriculum committees appropriate to both the originating and the cross-listed units.

Chair of Originating Unit: Signature: Christopher R. Watts, PhD..........................

Name: Chris Watts, Chair ............................................

Unit: Dept of Communication Sciences & Disorders

Revised 12/07