

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Collaborative 3+1 Program

Joint Degree: Bachelor's (B.S.) Degree in Audiology and Speech Pathology

**College of Education, Health and Human Sciences, University of Tennessee
Knoxville**

College of Allied Health, University of Tennessee Health Science Center

CIP code: 31.51.0299.00 and 31.51.0204.00

For implementation August 1, 2013

Executive Summary

The UTK campus has scheduled the elimination of undergraduate courses in Audiology and Speech Pathology for 2014. This follows the 2008 transfer of the Department of Audiology & Speech Pathology from UTK to UTHSC. During this transition period (2008-2014), all departmental undergraduate courses are dual listed through UTK and UTHSC and taught by UTHSC faculty. These dual-listed courses serve as prerequisites to further study, with graduate degrees required for professional practice. The elimination of the undergraduate courses at UTK will deny students the opportunity to prepare for graduate work and add a year of graduate study (and tuition) to their post-baccalaureate education.

This proposal outlines a path for undergraduate students interested in pursuing a career as an Audiologist or Speech-Language Pathologist to complete their degree programs more efficiently and inexpensively by obtaining a joint undergraduate degree from UTK and UTHSC. In this model, students will be admitted to and complete 3 years of study in the College of Education Health and Human Sciences at UTK to meet general education and pre-major requirements. At the end of their junior year they will apply to and, if admitted, transfer in their senior year to the College of Allied Health at UTHSC to complete courses in audiology and speech pathology. This proposal also provides necessary financial support for the undergraduate courses in audiology and speech pathology by allocating the tuition generated by undergraduate majors to UTHSC and the departmental faculty who teach these classes.

Historically, undergraduate majors in the Department of Audiology & Speech Pathology were available in either Audiology or Speech Pathology. In keeping with national developments, the majors and degrees awarded in these professional areas have been merged at the undergraduate level. One major, now called Audiology & Speech Pathology, will provide the coursework necessary for the Bachelor of Science degree and progression into graduate study in either Audiology or Speech Pathology.

Program Rationale

Prompted by the planned phase out of the undergraduate courses in Audiology and Speech Pathology at UTK, this proposal describes a means to grant a joint undergraduate degree with a major in Audiology & Speech Pathology through the College of Education Health and Human Sciences at UTK and the College of Allied Health Sciences at UTHSC. According to the

Memorandum of Understanding, signed in October, 2008,

“... UTK will phase out the undergraduate degree programs in audiology and speech pathology over the next six years by following the regular curriculum review process. The 2008-09 UTK Undergraduate Catalog (the current academic year) will be the last catalog to list the undergraduate degrees in A&SP. Students wishing to pursue the major programs in that department must declare their majors by the beginning of the fall semester 2010, and shall graduate under the 2008-09 catalog. Courses will be in place to allow those students to graduate in a timely manner. All students pursuing the undergraduate A&SP degrees under the 2008-09 catalog must graduate by August 2014. These undergraduate students will remain Knoxville students and will not transfer to UTHSC.”

Through the creation of a joint undergraduate degree program in Audiology & Speech Pathology between UTK and UTHSC: (a) undergraduates will once again be able to obtain a degree that prepares them for graduate study, (b) the Department of Audiology & Speech Pathology will be able to consolidate undergraduate and graduate course offerings under one College and one University making management more efficient, and (c) the tuition generated through courses taught by UTHSC faculty will go to UTHSC.

Adherence to the UTHSC Institutional Mission

The creation of this program is in keeping with the overall mission of the University of Tennessee in that it will continue to “...provide the people of Tennessee with access to quality higher education...and enhanced quality of-life opportunities,” and the institutional mission of UTHSC because it “... bring(s) the benefits of the health sciences to the achievement and maintenance of human health, with a focus on the citizens of Tennessee and the region, by pursuing an integrated program of education, research, clinical care and public service.” Finally, this program fits easily into the mission of the College of Allied Health because it provides initial preparation for ‘...competent health professionals (and) contribute(s) to the knowledge bases of the respective allied health disciplines.’”

Program need and Current Status of Majors in Audiology or Speech Pathology

At present, undergraduate students at UTK who are interested in completing the undergraduate prerequisites for graduate study take classes taught by UTHSC faculty under a transition plan. This plan offers the undergraduate courses in a “Concentration” through the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences for the period between 2008 and 2014. Undergraduate students participating in these classes have reported to the faculty that they are disappointed by their inability to major in the discipline as an undergraduate. They suggest that the concentration being offered during this transition period does not adequately represent their focus or their efforts. In addition, the ‘transition plan’ requires UTHSC faculty to teach students from two different universities using different grading scales and different Blackboard systems. Grades for students in each dual listed course must also be reported separately according to the university the student is attending. This is not optimal for either the students or the faculty.

At present, roughly 125 students participate in the undergraduate concentration program at UTK with approximately 45 graduating each year. The undergraduate coursework proposed for transfer to UTHSC is a prerequisite to graduate study and meets state and national standards for professional practice. Interest in this program remains at a high level because students who go on to complete a graduate degree have plentiful job opportunities. According to the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics, this favorable job outlook is likely to remain over the next decade (<http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos099.htm>). It is projected that undergraduate program enrollments will remain at current levels or grow at a moderate pace.

In Tennessee, undergraduate programs similar to this one are available at ETSU, TSU and MTSU. These programs, in combination with the UTK concentration program, are insufficient to meet state needs in preparing professionals for either school-based or hospital-based practice. This is one reason for the broad based public outcry when UTK made an effort to eliminate the Audiology & Speech Pathology program in 2008. The state of Tennessee needs these health care/educational professionals and the undergraduate programs provide the source for future professionals. Additionally, many students indicate that they prefer to attend the state's land-grant university (UTK) for their general education and would like the option to major in audiology and speech pathology.

Program Proposal and Feasibility

In order to address the elimination of the undergraduate courses in Audiology & Speech Pathology at UTK, a 3+1 joint degree program in Audiology & Speech Pathology has been designed that requires 3 years of course work at UTK and 1 year of course work in Audiology & Speech Pathology through UTHSC. In this plan, undergraduate students will enter UTK as freshmen with a Pre-Audiology & Speech Pathology major. This pre-major mechanism is used for a number of majors on the UTK campus and the 3+1 design is similar in structure to a Pre-Veterinary Medicine program.

The primary difference in this proposed program from other pre-health majors at UTK is that students will graduate with a joint degree from UTHSC and UTK at the end of their undergraduate studies. In this model, pre-Audiology & Speech Pathology majors will complete general education, other prerequisite and elective requirements (approx. 90 credit hours) as a UTK student. They will then complete major education requirements (approx. 34 credit hours) in their final year as a UTHSC student.

This 3+1 proposal is advantageous to both campuses. As a joint degree program, UTK will not suffer any "loss to graduation" when students opt to pursue the popular Audiology & Speech Pathology major. Similarly, UTHSC will receive appropriate credit for the students they teach and advise as undergraduate majors. The logistics of this joint degree will not place an administrative burden on either campus. Each year the UTK admissions office will receive a list of names of students admitted to UTHSC for their senior year from the UTHSC admissions office. UTK admissions will set them up as a "cohort" and will track these students until they graduate from UTHSC. For formula funding purposes, UTK will receive credit for the steps along the path if these students successfully complete the degree (hours achieved, successful transfer and ultimate graduation rate). UTHSC is currently not formula funded.

Program Admissions

When students with a pre-Audiology & Speech Pathology major have completed 60 credits at UTK, they will apply for admission to UTHSC. An application fee will be charged. The following semester, students who meet entry requirements will be conditionally admitted. Full admission will be made once they have completed the 90 credit hours with a minimum 3.0 GPA (typically in May of the Junior year). In the event that the demand for this program becomes too great for the department to handle effectively, a competitive process will be added to the 3.0 minimum GPA requirement. This process will be designed and monitored by the ASP departmental admissions committee and a faculty member from the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences will be asked to participate. If admitted to UTHSC, the final year of the undergraduate program will be completed as an Audiology & Speech Pathology major. The admitted students will remain in Knoxville, where the Audiology and Speech Pathology graduate programs are located. Admission to the UTHSC undergraduate program does not guarantee admission to the graduate program.

Student Advising

Students in the 3+1 joint degree program will be advised by UTK and UTHSC advisors in their first three years and then exclusively by the UTHSC Department of Audiology & Speech Pathology in their final year. A transition advising meeting would be arranged for each student with the Department of Audiology & Speech Pathology at the end of the sophomore year.

For Pre-Audiology & Speech Pathology majors, general education courses in the first 3 years of study will be structured to meet UTK requirements so that students who do not meet the UTHSC requirements for entry, or who opt out of the 3+1 joint degree program to pursue a different degree through UTK, will be on track for graduation from the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences at UTK.

For students in community colleges, or students transferring to UTK in their junior year, any UTK articulation agreements with other institutions will be honored so that students are not required to deal with additional general education requirements.

For students with financial aid, the transfer from UTK to UTHSC should not present any problems. The FAFSA requires an annual application and more than one school may be included in the application. Students who have applied for admission to UTHSC in the junior year will fill out the application for the following year listing both UTK and UTHSC. Those students with a HOPE scholarship will simply alert the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC) of their intention to transfer and the scholarship (assuming all HOPE GPA requirements continue to be met) will follow them.

Cross-University Collaboration

The adoption of the proposed plan will minimize but not eliminate current cross-university requirements. UTHSC recognizes that undergraduate courses in Audiology & Speech Pathology are required by several undergraduate majors at UTK. It is also true that UTHSC Audiology & Speech Pathology graduate students are required to take courses on the UTK campus. Cross-campus enrollment and a transparent tuition exchange system at the undergraduate and graduate levels is necessary so that: (a) undergraduate tuition from non-major UTK students taking ASP courses be awarded to UTHSC and that (b) tuition from UTHSC students taking UTK courses be awarded to UTK. The Registrars and Bursars on both campuses currently handle this efficiently for ASP graduate students using an "attribute" coding system within Banner.

The curriculum for the 3+1 program will be included in both the undergraduate catalog at UTK as part of the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences offerings and in the UTHSC catalog under the College of Allied Health. In addition, the curriculum will also appear on the websites of both Colleges.

In order to serve a variety of UTK students and programs, the Department of ASP would like to offer the Introduction to Communication Sciences and Disorders course (ASP 300) each fall and spring semester without requiring any tuition exchange. This would be done in order to provide UTK students with a sample of ASP content before they commit to the 3+1 joint degree program and to support UTK programs that recommend ASP 300 content to their students.

The fourth year students in the B.S. joint degree program in Audiology & Speech Pathology will be in residence on the UTK campus and pay tuition to UTHSC. However, fees will be organized to support facilities and activities at UTK. There is a fee model, already developed for the graduate programs in ASP that may be implemented for the undergraduate program. This approach is economical for undergraduate students because it allows them to remain in their residence during their senior year, avoid having to transfer to another university (e.g., ETSU, TSU) to pursue the major of their choice, and complete prerequisite coursework for a graduate

degree as an undergraduate student. As with UTHSC ASP graduate students, UTHSC ASP undergraduates would pay all mandatory fees that enable them to receive a Volcard (campus identification and payment card) and have the same student privileges as UTK undergraduates (e.g., access to student health, parking, library, gym, athletic events, dining cards, theater and music events, etc.). Alternatively, they would not be required to pay these same fees to UTHSC since they will not be located physically in Memphis and would not take advantage of the same student privileges as students in Memphis.

Overall, this proposed program demonstrates a collaborative endeavor between two UT institutions. This collaborative model is already in place at the graduate level and is very efficient for student preparation, highly cost effective, and represents a positive solution for the state of Tennessee in addressing a recognized professional shortage area.

Transition Plan

In order to move forward, an agreement between UTK and UTHSC that allows all current concentration students to transition into the 3+1 joint degree program is requested. Students who have already taken some of the ASP classes will be allowed to work through a hybrid schedule (with classes on both campuses) until 2014. At that point, it is expected that all students in the program will be advised to meet the requirements of the 3+1 program. Those students entering the university in 2012 who declare an interest in the program will be advised to declare a Pre-Audiology & Speech Pathology major and take the courses in the 3+1 joint degree plan.

Curriculum

The required curriculum for the undergraduate major will remain unchanged. Only the order of course offerings will be changed so that students in the Audiology & Speech Pathology major are able to complete all undergraduate major requirements in their senior year. Other than some changes in advising regarding the order of course completion, there are no substantive shifts in the curriculum, the professors who teach the courses, or the rooms/labs in which the courses are offered.

See Attachment A for a sample program of study.

This proposal deals effectively with the elimination of the ASP courses on the UTK campus by transferring course content to UTHSC. As a result, students in Tennessee will retain an important avenue for preparing themselves for graduate coursework in either Audiology or Speech Pathology. The Department of ASP is committed to making this work for students and will strive to address any transition issues that might arise, as will the Audiology and Speech Pathology Oversight Committee. This committee includes members of multiple student services offices (e.g., registrar, admissions, bursar, financial aid), colleges, and academic administrators from both the UTHSC and UTK campus and was established for the purpose of dealing with logistical issues related to the transition and the physical presence of students and faculty on one campus but under the administration of another.

Institutional Commitment and Priority

This proposal was discussed across campuses at a preliminary meeting on May 4, 2011 with Provost Susan Martin (UTK), Dean Noma Anderson (UTHSC), Susan Forman (UTK Bursar), Ashley Harkrider (Chair of ASP), Patrick N. Plyler and Ilsa Schwarz (Program Directors in ASP) in attendance. Both campuses agreed to contact the UT System to determine the process for implementing the proposed plan. All parties met in September with Katherine High, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success (UT), Vice Provost Sally McMillan (UTK) and Vice Chancellor Scheid (UTHSC) to review additional details. India Lane, the Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs and Student Success facilitated the preparation of this MOU and

will forward the recommendations to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission upon approval by the Vice President of Academic Affairs and the President of the University.

Facility and Resource Availability

This program does not require any new facilities or resources. No new faculty, classrooms, or laboratories are needed. The same UTHSC professors that currently teach in the undergraduate program will continue to teach the same classes. This proposal simply requests a change in the University responsible for its administration. The current administrative split between undergraduate and graduate programs in Audiology & Speech Pathology is cumbersome and confusing. In order to bring the undergraduate program in line with departmental graduate programs, similar administrative requirements need to be in place. At present, the different administrations, even though both are part of the UT system, have different requirements, calendars, student services systems, handbooks, and missions.

Library and Information Technology Resources

All UTHSC students, as well as departmental faculty and staff, have email addresses through UTHSC, as well as technical support from the Memphis campus. For this reason, students in the 3+1 joint degree program will have their email address changed from UTK.edu to UTHSC.edu in their senior year. As this is an existing program, no new library resources are required.

Impact on other Programs or Concentrations.

The administrative shift of the undergraduate program in Audiology & Speech Pathology from UTK to UTHSC will not change any course offerings available to non-majors on the UTK campus. This means that UTK students whose programs or concentrations require coursework from the Department of Audiology & Speech Pathology (e.g., Deaf Education) will still be able to complete all degree requirements. The administrative change should be relatively invisible to students, with the transfer of tuition from one campus to another handled administratively. Students in the program will be assigned Banner "attributes" by the campus Bursar in order to track and manage tuition and fees, a process that is already in effect for ASP graduate students.

Tuition and Fees

- a) Undergraduate tuition from non-major UTK students taking Audiology and Speech courses will be allocated to UTHSC.
- b) Undergraduate tuition from pre-major 3+1 program UTK students taking Audiology and Speech courses will be allocated to UTHSC.
- c) Tuition from UTHSC students taking UTK courses will be allocated to UTK.
- d) Tuition and fees for Audiology and Speech majors in their final year at UTHSC will be kept the same as overall tuition and fees charged to a full-time undergraduate students at UTK.
- e) Students in the Audiology and Speech major will be eligible to maintain and/or apply for scholarships on the UTK and/or UTHSC campus. Students may be eligible for work-study through UTHSC.
- f) In order for students in their fourth year to have a UTK VolCard, UTHSC will need to provide a list of the names of students. They will not have an active card until the list is received and loaded by UTK.
- g) Mandatory fees for a student's fourth year will be assessed and remitted to UTK.

- h) During the fourth year, UTHSC will process all waivers and third-party billings.
- i) During the fourth year, UTHSC will process the student's financial aid.


Program Review and Maintenance

Program review will take place annually for the first 5 years to monitor joint program demand, any advising issues that may arise, graduation rates, and success in transitioning all students into the 3+1 program. After that time, program review will follow THEC schedules.


Conditions for Program Discontinuance

This program is guaranteed by both campuses to remain in place for 5 years. After that point in time, if the 3+1 joint program is discontinued, a 5 year transition plan will be put in place that allows students to complete all requirements at both UTK and UTHSC and graduate from UTHSC. Notification from either party will be communicated by the ASP department head or equivalent to the appropriate Dean and Chief Academic Officers. Notification of program discontinuance will be made to the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success by the Chief Academic Officer of each campus.

Agreed to upon 11/7/2012 (date):



Jimmy G. Cheek
Chancellor, UTK



Steve J. Schwab
Chancellor, UTHSC

Attachment A

Sample Program of Study

Freshman Year at UTK	Credit Hours
English 101*, 102*	6
Arts and Humanities Elective*	3
Social Science Elective* (PSYC 110)	3
Cultures and Civilizations (Beg or Intermediate Language Semester 1 and 2)	6
Natural Sciences Elective* (BIOL 101 or 102)	3
PHYS 101 – how things work	3
Elective	3
Quantitative Reasoning (Math 113)	3-4
TOTAL CREDITS	30-32
Sophomore Year at UTK	Credit Hours
Communication Studies 210* or 240*	3
Cultures and Civilization (Intermediate Language Semester 1 and 2 if needed)	6
History 241-242	6
Arts and Humanities Elective*	3
Social Science Elective*	3
2 Physical Science Elective	3
3 Communicating through Writing Elective*	3
Elective	3
TOTAL CREDITS	30
Junior Year at UTK	Credit Hours
ASP 300 Introduction to Communication Sciences and Disorders	3
Biological Sciences Elective** (ANTH 210? WC)	3
Intro to Stats 201 (Gen Ed)	3
Stats 115	3
Phil 246 – Bioethics (AH/WC)	3
CFS 405 Professional practice with diversity issues	3
Linguistics 200	3
Elective	3
Elective	3
Elective	3
TOTAL CREDITS	30
Senior Year at UTHSC	Credit Hours
ASP 402 Acoustics and perception	3
ASP 403 Introduction to Hearing Sciences	3
ASP 405 Phonetics	3
ASP 406 Anatomy and Physiology	3
ASP 420 Speech and Language Development	3
ASP 431 Stuttering	3
ASP 433 Observation	1
ASP 435 Introduction to Speech Sound Disorders	3
ASP 440 Voice Disorders	3
ASP 461 Introduction to Language Disorders in Children	3
ASP 473 Audiological Assessment	3
ASP 494 Aural Rehabilitation	3
TOTAL CREDITS	34
GRAND TOTAL	120-121

1 Select two courses from the Natural Science list - General Education Requirement. At least one of the courses must have a lab.

2 Choices include Astronomy 151, 152, 161, 162, 217, 218; Chemistry 100, 110, 120, 130, 128, 138; Geography 131, 132; Geology 101, 102, 103, 108, 201, 202, 203, 205, 207, 208; Physics 101, 102, 135, 136, 137, 138, 161, 221, 222, 231, 232.

3 Any course with a (WC) designation satisfies this requirement
Recommended Biological Sciences Electives include ANTH 210 (WC)