

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

EP.03.12

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



December 6, 2002

Peter L. Mortensen, Chair
Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Office of the Senate
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Mortensen:

Enclosed are copies of a proposal from the Graduate College for the creation of the Doctor of Audiology degree program

This proposal has been approved by the College of Applied Life Studies Educational Policy Committee and the Graduate College Executive Committee; it now requires Senate review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith A. Marshall".

Keith A. Marshall
Assistant Provost

KAM/ml

c: T. Gallagher
R. Watkins
N. Few
L. Murphy
R. Wheeler
A. Poehls

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

EP.03.12

Graduate College
204 Coble Hall
801 South Wright Street
Champaign, IL 61820-6210



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OFFICE of the PROVOST

November 26, 2002

Keith Marshall
Assistant Provost
207 Swanlund
MC-304

Dear Keith:

On behalf of the Graduate College Executive Committee, I am pleased to inform you that the Graduate College has approved the following proposed degree program:

Doctor of Audiology

Earlier this month, the Program Subcommittee of the Executive Committee unanimously approved the proposed program, which it had previously considered informally. The Department of Speech and Hearing Science has been very responsive to the recommendations from the subcommittee about how the proposal could be strengthened.

The Graduate College Executive Committee unanimously approved the proposed program on November 21, 2002, subject to minor modifications, which have been made.

We understand that the proposed program must be approved by a variety of bodies, including the Illinois Board of Higher Education, before it can be implemented. The Au.D. is essential to the department's ability to continue to offer clinical professional training in audiology.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Lamar Riley Murphy
Associate Dean

Enclosure

c (w/o enc.): Tanya Gallagher
Ruth Watkins
Nora Few
Alice Poehls
Richard Wheeler

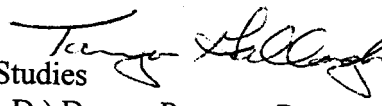
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

College of Applied Life Studies

Office of the Dean
108 Huff Hall, MC-586
1206 South Fourth Street
Champaign, IL 61820



November 11, 2002

To: Richard Wheeler, Dean
Graduate College
From: Tanya Gallagher, Dean 
College of Applied Life Studies
Re: Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) Degree Program Request

I have attached a request for a new degree program, the Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.), which is proposed by the Department of Speech and Hearing Science within the College of Applied Life Studies. The proposal is extensive and thorough and complies with the format mandated by the University Senate. The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the College of Applied Life Studies Educational Policy Committee. The proposal has my approval and full support, as well. Please contact me if you need additional information about this degree program request.

Executive Summary of New Program Request for Doctor of Audiology Degree Program

Enclosed is a new program request for a Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) degree for the Department of Speech and Hearing Science. The objective of the Au.D. is to prepare graduates for the practice of audiology in the 21st century. The Department currently offers the Bachelor of Science degree at the undergraduate level, and the Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy at the graduate level in audiology, speech-language pathology, hearing science, speech science, or language science. Through the history of the discipline, the Ph.D. has been the training vehicle for producing the independent researcher/scholar and future tenure-track faculty member. The master's degree has been the entry-level degree for the clinical professions of speech-language pathology and audiology for almost forty years. Most current master's degree programs in audiology consist of two years of academic and clinical work followed by a 9-month full-time supervised clinical internship experience (the Clinical Fellowship Year or CFY). However, dramatic increases in the knowledge base and scientific foundations of audiology have led to a greatly enhanced scope of practice. Due to the rapidly expanding scientific and professional knowledge and skill base, it is no longer possible to adequately prepare future audiologists to be independent practitioners within the constraints of a two-year master's program followed by the CFY. In recognition of the increasing scope of practice, and in response to the need for more extensive academic experience, constituents and all major professional organizations encompassing audiology support expanded accreditation requirements and replacement of the master's degree with a doctoral degree as the entry-level requirement for the profession of audiology. The consensus is that the level of sophistication, the dynamic environment of expanded practice roles, as well as the increased level of responsibilities in audiology demand higher levels of instruction. Clinical audiology is moving rapidly toward a doctoral level profession. The Department seeks the Au.D. for that majority of graduate students in clinical audiology who wish to have the broadest and most substantial clinical training as an independent practitioner/scholar. This goal cannot be reached with the Ph.D. without compromising its focus on the rigorous training of the independent researcher. Below are summaries and comments relating to major issues within the enclosed proposal.

In 1997, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), the scientific/professional body responsible for accreditation and certification for audiology and speech-language pathology, revised the Standards for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology (CCC-A) to make the scope and level of academic and professional education in audiology consistent with the scope of practice of the profession. According to the new standard, applicants for the certificate must complete a minimum of 75 semester credit hours of post-baccalaureate study that culminates in a doctoral or other recognized academic degree. The requirement for 75 semester post-baccalaureate credit hours becomes effective for persons who apply for accreditation after December 31, 2006. The requirement of a doctoral degree is mandated for persons who apply for certification after December 31, 2011.

The clinical certificate (CCC) of ASHA is considered the basis of most state licensure and is the standard of clinical practice in audiology. Academic programs which currently offer a master's degree leading to the CCC-A must expand their offerings if they are to continue being accredited by ASHA for the preparation of audiology practitioners. It is therefore necessary for the Department of Speech and Hearing Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) to replace its master's degree in audiology with a professional doctorate as the entry-level credential to the profession. Failure to adopt a doctoral degree program for

clinical training would remove the Department from clinical professional training in audiology. It would force the closing of the clinical audiology training program at the University of Illinois which for years has received a high national ranking. Closure of the clinical audiology program would be detrimental to the Department's overall national ranking and stature in other major divisions of the Department, namely speech-language pathology, speech science, hearing science, and language science. It would also force the closing of the Department's Audiology Clinic which is a major contributor to the revenue generation which supports the overall clinical operations of the Department.

The hard-of-hearing populations are growing quickly, and there is an inadequate supply of certified audiologists to deliver services. Audiology is listed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor as being among the five fastest growing occupations that require a master's degree. It is appropriate as the State's land-grant university, and as the preeminent program in speech and hearing science among the State's public universities, that the University of Illinois respond to the need for more and better-trained practitioners in audiology and maintain its leadership position. The University of Illinois will capitalize on its well-recognized and established tradition of excellence in preparing master's degree level audiology professionals and will expand its leadership tradition to embrace doctoral level professional education and training.

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will also capitalize on the fact that it is the only program among the State public universities which will place doctoral level clinical professional training in the context of a long-standing research Ph.D. program in speech and hearing science. Students in the doctoral level professional Au.D. program at the UIUC will have the opportunity to observe and work in active research labs, interact and dialogue with prominent faculty investigators and research Ph.D. students, and complete a Doctoral Research Project. The importance to the discipline of exposing students in professional training to the highest level of research enterprise cannot be overestimated. The discipline must be guided by updated research. The UIUC campus is unique among the State public universities in Illinois to promote this goal.

The UIUC will also take advantage of the outstanding breadth, depth, and range of the world-recognized research programs and research centers on campus. The faculty of the Department of Speech and Hearing Science are involved in collaborations and hold appointments in many of these centers and programs across and beyond the campus. Students in the professional Au.D. and research Ph.D. doctoral programs in audiology will benefit from direct student-faculty engagements in these and other research units.

We anticipate that the synergy between the professional and research doctoral level programs will enhance the existing Ph.D. program. The current model of the master's degree plus the Clinical Fellowship Year (CFY) has required that students consider the master's degree as a terminal degree, and actually leave academic education in order to complete clinical professional training. This model has been contradictory to the students' continuing research training and academic careers beyond the master's and the CFY. The model of the Au.D. keeps students in academic education throughout clinical professional training, and makes it possible for those interested in an academic career to begin Ph.D. training upon completion of the Au.D. It is possible, therefore, for the student to gain essential credentials needed for entry to a clinical professional career and a research career without leaving the academic education of the university. This is important because of a nationwide critical shortage of applicants to, and

graduates from, research Ph.D. programs in the discipline. It is anticipated that some students will wish to complete both the Au.D. and Ph.D. programs. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is alone among the State public universities in being able to facilitate the completion by students of both the Au.D. and the Ph.D.

The Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) is a post-baccalaureate professional and applied research degree. This designator for the professional doctoral degree in audiology at the UIUC has been selected because it clearly distinguishes applied-emphasis doctoral-level training from research-emphasis Ph.D. doctoral-level training, and is the most recognizable and marketable designator for professional doctoral training in audiology in the country. The profession of audiology is rapidly moving toward a doctorate as the entry-level credential, with the Au.D. as the most frequent and preferred designator. More than 80 academic units in the country have or currently are developing Au.D. degree programs. Among the top 27 Master's/Doctoral programs in audiology ranked by reputation in the *U.S. News & World Report* in 2000, all either have or are developing professional doctoral programs, and all but four of these use or will use the Au.D. designator.

The adoption of the Au.D. is consistent with the mission and initiatives of the University of Illinois, the College of Applied Life Studies, and the Department of Speech and Hearing Science. This is particularly true in regard to the maintenance and improvement of the quality of undergraduate and graduate programs, as well as to the support of diversity issues within the university and in society.

There is already a population of students interested in audiology and in our program. In addition, discussions with existing Au.D. programs around the country suggest that they have more applicants than they can accommodate. Students appear to have recognized that audiology is rapidly becoming a doctoral level profession, and demand for the Au.D. seems high.

The Au.D. will affect the Department's terminal master's degree that currently serves as the entry-level academic credential for clinical practice in audiology. As a post-baccalaureate degree, the Au.D. will replace the terminal master's degree with concentration in audiology as the entry-level credential. The master's degree will be retained as a academic degree as stage I of the Ph.D. as well as a potential part of stage I of the Au.D. The master's degree will not be used for entry to the profession of clinical audiology or to support clinical certification in audiology.

In the description of the curriculum, the proposal makes reference to graduate academic credit in semester hours rather than units. This is done on recommendation of the College of Applied Life Studies and Associate Dean Lamar Murphy of the Graduate College because this will become the University policy within the next year for all graduate credits. Typically, 1 unit is equal to 4 semester hours.

In regard to the proposed curriculum, the Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) is a four-year post-baccalaureate degree that emphasizes the application of basic science and technology and provides advanced professional training for the diagnosis and habilitation/rehabilitation of hearing disorders and related communication and educational disorders, as well as the scholarly study of professional practice-centered problems. The first two years of the program have more didactic courses than clinical practicum. The Comprehensive Examination (a written qualifying exam) is typically taken after one and-a-half years of the program, with the Preliminary Examination (defense of the prospectus for the Doctoral Research Project) taken at the beginning of the third year. The third year typically involves didactic coursework and clinical practicum, as well as completion of the Doctoral Research Project. The fourth year will usually involve full-

time clinical practicum. The Final Examination (defense of the Doctoral Research Project) should be completed by the end of the fourth year. A minimum of 112 semester hours are required by the program. Didactic coursework requires 72 hours, with required courses comprising 60 hours, and an additional 12 to 16 hours of electives/specialty emphasis. No less than 10 hours and more than 16 hours for the Doctoral Research Project, and no less than 30 hours and no more than 36 hours of clinical practicum may be counted toward the 112 required hours for the degree. The Doctoral Research Project is generally expected to be clinically focused, and although it is not intended to have the scope of a Ph.D. dissertation, it is expected to be a rigorous, cumulative project.

The Au.D. curriculum primarily involves existing courses taught both within and outside of the Department, with six "new" departmental courses listed in the proposed curriculum. Of the six "new" courses, three have been taught before as part of the existing master's curriculum under a special problems number. One course will be taught by an adjunct faculty member, and the other two courses will become part the faculty teaching load. These "new" courses will not involve a teaching overload for any faculty member. In addition, most of the faculty teach undergraduate courses that apply to the standards for certification in audiology, and many faculty can facilitate Au.D. student research by serving on research committees.

The proposed Au.D. program at the UIUC is not a new field of study and the infrastructure for the program is already in place. The Au.D. will be an enhanced version built on a highly-rated existing master's clinical audiology program. The program can be initiated with the current faculty and staff. Throughout the program, we will continue to hire several adjunct faculty as part-time instructors, and will add zero-time adjunct faculty who will assist with guest lectures, workshops, serve on and direct student research committees, augment student research experiences, and provide supervision for student practicum.

The Department is in the process of hiring a full-time, tenure-track faculty member who will hold the Ph.D. and whose primary research area is American Sign Language (ASL). This area is related to the Au.D. curriculum, and the faculty member will facilitate the didactic instruction and research experience of Au.D. students. The Department also plans to hire an additional full-time tenure-track faculty member during the 3rd or 4th year of the program. This faculty member will hold the Ph.D. in an area that will facilitate student research and didactic instruction in the Au.D. curriculum.

In terms of the adequacy of current support services and equipment, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has been educating speech and hearing practitioners, as well as speech, language, and hearing scientists, for decades. Because the Au.D. program is designed to replace the existing master's program in clinical audiology, and because the Department already has ongoing research labs that support Ph.D. research, the required resources are already in place. Test facilities, the Assistive Listening Device Center, the Audiology Clinic and the Speech-Language Pathology Clinic, student work areas and desk space, classroom space, research laboratories in the Department's own building as well as additional spaces on campus already exist. No major clinical, research, or instructional equipment, over and above that needed for the existing program will be required for the Au.D. program.

In addition, the Department has Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Clinics in which students obtain clinical practicum experience, and a long-standing and well-developed network of clinical externship sites is in place in support of the current master's clinical program. The relationships with some of the external sites are decades old, whereas others have been

newly developed depending on the needs of current students and the program. The sites have readily accepted our students because of the excellent training that our students receive, and because the sites benefit from the assistance that our students provide. Most of the existing sites have indicated that they will take our students either part-time (1 or 2 days a week) or full-time (5 days a week) for three to four months at a time. More sites will be developed as needed.

The proposed Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) program will require no additional funding for library acquisitions to support it. The Department's allocation for library acquisitions already increases each year, and allows the purchase of needed books, periodicals, videotapes, CDs, microfilms, reference materials, diagnostic test materials, etc. The current level of funding for the existing library already supports the advanced study required for a master's and a Ph.D. program in audiology as well as for these programs in hearing science, speech science, language science, and speech-language pathology. Thus, no additional acquisitions will be required for the Au.D. program beyond the maintenance of yearly book, periodical, and reference acquisitions at the present level.

The master's degree programs in speech-language pathology and audiology in the Department of Speech and Hearing Science have been continuously accredited by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) since at least the early 1970s. During this period of time, the programs have always held the status of "accredited," meaning that all reviews have found the programs to be fully operational and in compliance with all accreditation standards. More specifically, the reviews have always found the University's and the Department's administrative structure and governance, faculty/instructional staff size and qualifications, academic and clinical curriculum, student resources, and program resources to meet or exceed accreditation standards. Upon approval of the Au.D. degree program, the Department would seek accreditation for the Au.D. program to replace accreditation of the clinical master's in audiology.

Full proposal available
for review in the Senate
Office.