

DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY

To: Cecilia Gray  
Associate VP for Undergraduate Programs

From: James McCartney, Chair  
Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology

Re: Proposal for a joint clinical doctorate in audiology (AuD)

Date: October 29, 2001

I am submitting a concept proposal for a joint clinical doctorate in audiology to be reviewed by the Faculty Senate. The joint AuD degree would be a cooperative effort between California State University, Sacramento and the University of Nevada, Reno. This proposal has the support of President Gerth (see September 17, 2001 memo) and the Academic Council of the College of Health and Human Services (see October 25, 2001 memo). This will be a "test case" as Dr. Gerth mentions in his memo. We are excited about the possibility of working with Reno, sharing their facilities in the School of Medicine, and collaborating on future research projects.

Dr. Hopkins and I traveled to Reno in the spring of 2001 and met with the Interim President of University of Nevada, Reno and the Chair of the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology. This proposal has their personal support. If I can provide you with further information I know that both the Dean and I would be pleased to meet your committee to answer any questions.

- c. President Donald Gerth  
Associate Vice President Ric Brown  
Dean Marilyn Hopkins

# DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY

## Clinical Doctorate in Audiology

### Proposal

The Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology, in the College of Health and Human Services at California State University, Sacramento requests permission to develop and the authority to grant a joint clinical doctorate in audiology (AuD) with the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology, in the School of Medicine, at University of Nevada, Reno. The two departments believe that we can jointly offer a unique and strong clinical doctorate as required by the national accrediting body beginning in 2007.

Audiology is the younger of the two professions comprising communication disorders. Speech pathology began around 1920 and awarded its first doctorate in 1921. Audiology began around WW II in the mid 1940's and awarded its first doctorate in 1947. The accrediting agency for both professions is the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA). ASHA began a certification program in 1952 but with no graduate degree or national examination required. In 1965 the master's degree or equivalent was required plus a passing score on the national examination. The 30-unit master's degree was initiated in 1988. The equivalency was not dropped until 1993 at which time a masters or doctorate degree became the standard.

In 1997 new requirements were adopted for the certificate in audiology because of advances in technology and in audiology. According to ASHA, "it is necessary to upgrade the academic and clinical requirements and to move from a two year master's degree to a four year professional degree requirement, specifically the AuD, for entry into the profession." This change was prompted by a review of over 4000 audiologists who provided extensive data for a skills validation study, the results of which were published in 1996. Comments from 1996 plus input from the 1997 national convention were incorporated into a widespread peer review in July 1997. "The new standards are intended to make the scope and level of professional education in audiology consistent with the scope of practice of the profession." The new standards also reflect the change in direction towards outcomes or competency based assessment as opposed to process-based assessment.

ASHA projects the need for audiologists to be great for the next decade. This need is already evident as we receive several inquiries from employers seeking audiologists each month. We only graduate about three a semester, all of whom have jobs. The need across the country reflects changing demographics, an increasing aged population with increased numbers in long term care facilities, a growing aged population over 85 year olds, and the initiation of universal infant hearing screening at the other end of the age continuum.

Salient features of the new standards include:

1. Applicants must complete a minimum of 75 semester credit hours of post baccalaureate study.
2. Formal courses, laboratories and practicum experiences may meet the 75 credit hours.
3. The program must include a practicum experience that is equivalent to a minimum of 12 months full-time, supervised experience.
4. The 75 semester post-baccalaureate credit hours and 12 months experience become effective January 1, 2007.
5. The requirement for a doctoral degree is mandated for those applying for certification beginning January 1, 2012.
6. The graduate education in audiology must be *initiated* and *completed* in a program accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation of ASHA.
7. Courses or practicum experiences are not specified.
8. Applicant must demonstrate that the granting program assessed the acquisition of knowledge and skills.

There are approximately four distance learning AuD programs in the U.S. These programs require a master's degree, certification and licensure along with a documented 3-5 years experience before one can enroll. There are about 10 AuD resident programs across the U.S. but none on the west coast. The only Ph.D. program in audiology on the west coast is the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington. There is only one small Ph.D. program in speech-language pathology in California, a joint degree between UC San Diego and CSU, San Diego. The only other Ph.D. program in speech-language pathology and speech and hearing sciences is at the University of Washington, in Seattle, Washington.

Historically, California had several Ph.D. granting institutions in both speech-language pathology and audiology, i.e. Stanford, UC San Francisco and UC Santa Barbara. Each of these has closed, the last of which was Santa Barbara about three years ago. There are about 14 speech-language pathology master's degree granting institutions in California including both private and state universities, no UC programs. However, there are only six granting audiology degrees (Northridge, Los Angeles, Long Beach, San Diego, San Francisco and Sacramento). None of the remaining programs in audiology can offer the required clinical doctorate because the State University system does not allow the awarding of doctoral degrees. Each program must seek alliance with a doctoral granting institution if audiology is to remain in California. All attempts have failed to date. Some of the joint programs that have failed include those with USC, Chapman College, University of the Pacific and UC Davis.

CSU Sacramento began talks with UC Davis three years ago. The Chair of the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology, and Dean of the College of Health and Human Services, CSUS, met with the chair of the Department of Otolaryngology at UCD, over a two-year period. The discussions continued with the new UCD chair of otolaryngology. The joint effort was officially (by phone) terminated on May 22, 2000 for

philosophical and financial reasons, according to the UCD Chair. UC Davis also rejected a Ph.D. program in speech pathology at about the same time.

The current Dean of the College of Health and Human Services suggested that a joint clinical doctorate with the University of Nevada at Reno be pursued. There were many practical reasons as well as professional justifications for such a match. According to the UNR General Catalog, the “school of medicine is one of only 20 community-based medical schools in the US. This means the school uses existing clinical facilities in its clinical training programs, it owns no teaching hospital. The school is designed to train capable and caring physicians who will practice primary care medicine in a community rather than an academic setting.” In performing its mission, UNR resolves to: “Offer high-quality degree programs in the arts, sciences and in selected professions,” and to “Emphasize undergraduate, graduate and professional programs which meet the needs of the citizens of Nevada.” Audiology is a definite need and one which is not offered by UNR or UNLV. Audiology is offered at CSUS with a very compatible mission: “To train competent professionals in audiology with an appropriate scientific background, clinical skill and an appreciation for the need to learn beyond formal academic training.” In order to train competent professionals a training clinic is mandatory. We toured their new clinic, which has 13,000 square feet on the first floor with additional space to be added from vacated space on the second floor. The CSUS clinic and second story space with offices and classrooms totals approximately 6,000 square feet with discussions of expansion ongoing.

Several meetings between principals (President/Provost) at the two campuses have been held. Both institutions support the joint clinical doctorate in audiology, with a consensus to develop a document that can be presented to each campus for approval. We will forward this document subsequent to concept approval by the College of Health and Human Services (Academic Council) and the University (Faculty Senate).