

Chair, Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

December 4, 2024

Dear Chair and Members of the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee:

On November 4, 2024, the Social and Behavioral Sciences Subcommittee reviewed a request from the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences to approve a new combined Bachelor of Arts in Speech and Hearing Science and a Doctor of Audiology degree program that could be completed in seven years. The earliest start date for this new program is Autumn 2025.

The rationale for this combined program is that it would 1) lessen the time to degree by one year, thereby reducing the education costs for students; 2) create efficiencies in the BA program by reducing redundant coursework; and 3) retain highly qualified undergraduate students who wish to pursue graduate work by offering them this attractive, cost-effective option for graduate school.

In this program, students would complete the BA coursework in three years and then matriculate into the four-year AuD program. As a result, the current 4+4 model will be replaced by a 3+4 model.

The department writes “We firmly believe that a new BA/AuD combined degree program will create a strong teaching and learning experience for our students, while also addressing the important issue of student affordability. We do recognize that this program could impact our future AuD students, and we will monitor these impacts.”

The SBS Subcommittee voted unanimously to approve this request. The proposal is now advanced to the ASCC with a motion to approve.

Sincerely,

Amy Nathanson  
Professor of Communication

Chair, ASCC Social and Behavioral Sciences Subcommittee