

From: [Harper, Leslie](#)
To: [Smith, Alan](#)
Subject: RE: New BS in Communication Sciences and Disorders
Date: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 5:03:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Dear Alan,

The Provost's Program Proposal Review Committee (PPPRC) has reviewed the LOI for the BS in Communicative Sciences and Disorders program. While the committee is supportive of the development of an undergraduate program that could serve as a feeder for the audiology and communicative disorders graduate programs, it does not believe that the proposed program has an appropriate curriculum or appropriate admissions requirements for an undergraduate program. Specifically, the following issues would need to be addressed before the committee would consider moving forward with the program:

- Admission requirements pose barriers that would make the program inaccessible to most students. Students are required to apply for admission to the program in their sophomore year, but they must successfully complete CMDS 470, CMDS 545, and PSYC 571 by then. This level of coursework is not appropriate for students at that level. All three of these courses are currently for graduate students only, yet the proposed sequencing has students taking them in their third semester (i.e., their first semester in core courses).
- The courses required for the major are generally too advanced for undergraduate students. None of the CMDS courses are below the 400-level. Two of the required core courses are 600-level (CMDS 606 and CMDS 695) and may not be taken by undergraduate students. The policy of the Graduate School is that undergraduate students apply for admission to an accelerated program before beginning their final 30 credits of the bachelor's program. This is because undergraduate students should not be taking graduate-level courses prior to their last 30 hours, and only then if they are deemed "exceptional students." However, this program seems to assume that all undergraduates are "exceptional" and capable of completing graduate-level courses as early as their sophomore year. This assumption sets students up for failure. Moreover, it makes the program out of compliance with SACSCOC standards 9.2 and 9.6. According to SACSCOC notes on standard 9.2, "if any student can take part in the program [where undergraduate students are completing graduate coursework] regardless of academic merit, it calls into question the integrity of the undergraduate degree and/or the rigor of the graduate degree." SACSCOC standard 9.6 requires that "graduate degree programs are progressively more advanced in academic content than undergraduate programs." It is difficult to argue that graduate work demands more rigor and higher-order learning than undergraduate work on the same subject when the undergraduate students are taking the graduate courses.
- Course sequencing for the program is oddly non-progressive. According to SACSCOC standard 9.1, educational programs must "embody a coherent course of study." According to SACSCOC, "The term 'coherence' in this standard reflects an expectation that, as a student progresses through a program of study, the content of the program demands increasing levels of integration knowledge." If the program curriculum does not reflect coherent sequencing and increasing complexity, it would be out of compliance with this SACSCOC standard.
- The curriculum says there are 37 credits of Cardinal Core courses (p.3), but Cardinal Core is only 31 credits. The Diversity requirements of Cardinal Core are met by taking courses in other Cardinal Core categories that also carry the D1 or D2 designation; the 6 credits of Diversity requirements, therefore, do not add hours to the total Cardinal Core program.
- Before considering an accelerated degree option for this program, the PPPRC would

like to see an appropriate standard undergraduate curriculum for the program. Vice Provost Willey has offered to assist you in the development of the standard undergraduate curriculum, while Vice Provost Boehm has offered to assist you in the development of an accelerated option.

- The budget needs to be revised to reflect accurate tuition revenues that the School of Medicine will receive.
 - Under the current budget model, academic units receive \$333 per credit hour instructed. Since all the instruction will not take place in the School of Medicine, all the tuition revenue will not go to the School of Medicine. Please revise the pro forma to only reflect the revenues that the School of Medicine will receive.
 - The budget does not take attrition into account. Please see [Cards Analytics](#) to get an idea of how many students you should expect to retain each year.
- A generic statement was provided stating that the other institutions in Kentucky with similar programs are “in full support of the development of an undergraduate degree in CSD at UofL.” Please provide specific feedback from each school, as we need to submit that to CPE when applying for approval of the LOI.

Thank you for your work on this new program. We look forward to your response and moving this program forward.

Please let me know that you have received this communication.

Leslie

Leslie Harper, PhD (*she/her*) [\[?\]](#)

Program Approval and Review Coordinator

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O: [502.852.8139](tel:502.852.8139) | W: <https://louisville.edu/oapa/accreditation-academic-programs-1/academie-program-approval-review>



From: Smith, Alan <alan.smith.1@louisville.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 12:07 PM

To: Harper, Leslie <leslie.harper@louisville.edu>

Subject: Re: New BS in Communication Sciences and Disorders

Hi Leslie.

The signed letter of intent is attached to this email. Let me know what else you need from me.

Alan

Alan F. Smith, EdD, CCC-SLP

Associate Professor

Division Chief | Communicative Disorders

Program Director | Speech-Language Pathology

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From: Harper, Leslie <leslie.harper@louisville.edu>
Date: Friday, June 9, 2023 at 4:59 PM
To: Smith, Alan <alan.smith.1@louisville.edu>
Subject: RE: New BS in Communication Sciences and Disorders

You're welcome!

Leslie Harper, PhD (*she/her*) [\[?\]](#)
Program Approval and Review Coordinator

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From: Smith, Alan <alan.smith.1@louisville.edu>
Sent: Friday, June 9, 2023 4:58 PM
To: Harper, Leslie <leslie.harper@louisville.edu>
Subject: Re: New BS in Communication Sciences and Disorders

Thank you!

Alan F. Smith, EdD, CCC-SLP

Associate Professor

Division Chief | Communicative Disorders

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From: Harper, Leslie <leslie.harper@louisville.edu>

Date: Friday, June 9, 2023 at 3:14 PM

To: Smith, Alan <alan.smith.1@louisville.edu>

Subject: New BS in Communication Sciences and Disorders

Dear Alan,

The Provost Program Proposal Review Committee has approved the Pre-LOI for the Communication Sciences and Disorders BS program.

The next step is for the PPPRC to review the LOI. You had already submitted an LOI before, but it was missing a few things. Please see my comments in the attached document. Also, you will need to revise a few things in the LOI based on the PPPRC's feedback on the Pre-LOI. Everything in the LOI and proposal should be consistent with the approved version of the Pre-LOI.

As you prepare the LOI, please address the feedback from the Provost Program Proposal Review Committee provided below.

Consider your collaborations with Belknap, not only for Cardinal Core, but also for the advanced courses you may need.

Thank you for your work on this new program. I look forward to receiving the revised LOI and moving this program forward.

Please let me know that you have received this communication.

Leslie

Leslie Harper, PhD (she/her) [?]
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From: Harper, Leslie Ann
Sent: Thursday, January 5, 2023 12:03 PM
To: Smith, Alan <alan.smith.1@louisville.edu>
Subject: RE: New BS in Communication Sciences and Disorders

Hi Alan,

I looked over the LOI, and there are a few more things I need from you before I can put it on the PPPRC agenda. I have highlighted these things and added comments in the margins of the LOI template. I have also attached market demand data from Lightcast Analyst for use in the LOI. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Leslie

Leslie Harper, PhD (she/her) [?]
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From: Smith, Alan <alan.smith.1@louisville.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, January 4, 2023 7:50 PM
To: Harper, Leslie Ann <leslie.harper@louisville.edu>
Subject: Re: New BS in Communication Sciences and Disorders

Hi Leslie.

The Pre-LOI is attached to this email. Please know, I did not mean to usurp the new process in any way...I didn't realize this step even existed. Let me know if you need anything else.

Alan

Alan F. Smith, EdD, CCC-SLP

Associate Professor

Division Chief | Communicative Disorders

Program Director | Speech-Language Pathology

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From: Harper, Leslie Ann <leslie.harper@louisville.edu>
Date: Wednesday, January 4, 2023 at 9:40 AM
To: Smith, Alan <alan.smith.1@louisville.edu>
Subject: RE: New BS in Communication Sciences and Disorders

Hi Alan,

I am afraid you can't bypass the Pre-LOI stage. Since you have already completed the LOI, though, I can try to have the Provost's Program Proposal Review Committee look at the Pre-LOI and the LOI at the same time, though. If it doesn't look like it is a program that requires interdisciplinary cooperation, that might fly. Otherwise, we might have to wait for feedback from deans in other units. Either way, you will need to complete the attached form.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Leslie

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From: Smith, Alan <alan.smith.1@louisville.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 3:21 PM
To: Harper, Leslie Ann <leslie.harper@louisville.edu>
Subject: New BS in Communication Sciences and Disorders

Hi Leslie.

To make a very long story short, I am the Division Chief for Communicative Disorders in the School of Medicine and have been working on an undergraduate degree program in Communication Sciences and Disorders since before COVID-19. Our MS program has been in existence for decades. I have a signed LOI by my Dean; it's attached to this email. I was unaware that a pre-LOI existed and now don't know what to do. Am I permitted to bypass this pre-stage? Let me know your thoughts when able. Thanks.

Alan

Alan F. Smith, EdD, CCC-SLP
Associate Professor
Division Chief | Communicative Disorders
Program Director | Speech-Language Pathology

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