

# CURRICULUM CHANGE PROPOSAL

## APPROVAL PAGE

Proposal Title: Correction to Undergraduate Catalog content for BS-RHSC Program

College: CHS      Department: Rehabilitation Sciences

DEPARTMENT CHAIR PROGRAM DIRECTOR

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I have read the enclosed proposal and approve this proposal on behalf of the department.

  
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Signature

Feb 13, 2020

Date

COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE CHAIR

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I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college curriculum committee.

  
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Signature

Feb 18, 2020

Date

COLLEGE DEAN

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I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college. I certify that the necessary funds will be allocated by the college in support of this proposal.

  
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Signature

2/24/2020

Date

## UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM CHANGE MEMO

**Date:** January 27, 2020

**From:** Dr. Dr. Carolina Valencia, Program Director Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences (BS-RHSC)

**Through:** Dr. Lorraine Torres, Chair CHS Academic Affairs Committee

**Through:** Dr. Shafik Dharamsi, Dean of the College of Health Sciences

**To:** Dr. Carla Ellis, Chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

**Proposal Title:** **Correction to Undergraduate Catalog content for BS-RHSC Program**

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To whom it may concern,

The Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences is requesting changes to the catalog to reflect new program policy, requirements, and to organize better the content. The requested changes are in the following areas:

**1. Requirement of the RSHC-SPLA concentration students to maintain the 3.0 SPLP SUBJECT GPA**

**Rationale:** The requirement of the RSHC-SPLA concentration students to maintain the 3.0 SPLP subject GPA (average GPA of all SPLP coursework) has been historically communicated to the students, however it is not listed in the catalog. Therefore, we are requesting that students in the speech concentration, in addition to the 3.0 cumulative GPA, must maintain a 3.0 SPLP GPA to stay in the speech concentration. If they do not earn and maintain the 3.0 SPLP GPA they cannot continue in that concentration; there is no probationary period allowed to raise the SPLP GPA.

**2. Request for adding a “C or higher” requirement in the catalog**

**Rationale:** We are requesting to add a requirement in the catalog stating that ALL classes on the RHSC degree plan for all concentrations must be passed with a C or higher. Currently the only classes that are REQUIRED to be a C or higher are the University Core Courses. The justification for this requirement is based on the goal of the RHSC Major to prepare its students for graduate programs in Physical Therapy (PHTH), Occupational Therapy (OCTH), Rehabilitation Counseling (RHCO), or Speech Language Pathology (SPLA). These programs require that of their pre-requisites (which are embedded into the RHSC major in various sections) be completed with a C or higher. Therefore, adding this requirement so that all courses must be completed with a C or higher aligns with the goal of the RHSC major. This requirement is also in line with

other undergraduate programs in CHS (Social Work and Clinical Laboratory Science) which require all courses be completed with C or better.

**3. Request for changing language in the catalog “mathematically impossible for the student to reach the 3.0”**

**Rationale:** Students in our program must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 and a minimum major Rehabilitation Sciences GPA (average of all DRSC courses) of 3.00 to remain in good academic standing. Failure to meet the minimum cumulative GPA and BS-RHSC GPA will result in academic probation. If placed on probation, the cumulative GPA and/or BS-RHSC GPA must be raised to a 3.00 by the conclusion of the next 12 required semester hours on the degree plan. However, we have had situations where it is not mathematically possible to raise the GPA to a 3.00 in the next 12 semester hours; in these cases, it is in the student’s best interest to change the major once it is determined they cannot reach the 3.0 requirement so they can pursue degree-applicable coursework for their new major. Therefore, we are requesting to change the language in the catalog for the future in order to avoid this type of situations.

**4. Request for adding the BS-RHSC Core courses on the Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences requirements**

**Rationale:** Students in our program must complete the following requirements: a) General University Core (42 semester credit hour); b) Pre-professional preparation requirements (semester credit hours vary depending on option selected); c) BS-RHSC Core (27 semester credit hour); d) Prescribed electives (semester credit hours vary depending on option selected); e) Free Electives (semester credit hours will vary from 0 – 21 hours depending on option selected). However, the catalog is not listing the BS-RHSC Core (27 semester credit hour) as part of the professional preparation section. Therefore, we are requesting to include the BS-RHSC Core in the list of requirements as a separate section to avoid confusion and align with the degree plan students receive.

## Current Catalog Description

### **The Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences requires:**

1) General University Core (42 semester credit hours): Please refer to University Core Curriculum section of the catalog. All courses used to satisfy the core curriculum must be completed with a 'C' or better, per University policy. In order to complete this degree plan in the most efficient manner, students should meet with their academic advisor when selecting courses to meet both core and degree plan requirements.

2) Pre-professional preparation requirements (semester credit hours vary depending on option selected): Students are required to meet with BS-RHSC faculty and/or academic advisor when selecting their option.

3) Minor(s) and/or prescribed electives (semester credit hours vary depending on option selected): Selection of approved minor(s) and/or prescribed electives must be approved by BS-RHSC faculty and/or academic advisor.

Minor(s): Approved minor(s) may include (list not inclusive): Biology, Chemistry, Health Promotion, Nutrition, Math, Psychology, Sociology, Speech Language Pathology, Statistics.

Prescribed Electives (semester credit hours vary depending on option selected): Selection of prescribed electives must be approved by BS-RHSC faculty and/or academic advisor.

4) Free electives (semester credit hours will vary from 0 – 21 hours depending on option selected).

### **Admission Requirements**

Students can declare their interest in a degree in Rehabilitation Sciences if they meet admission requirements to enroll at UTEP. Each semester, students are required to meet with a faculty advisor and/or academic advisor to review their academic standing, degree requirements and career interest.

It is important to note that this is a pre-professional program that encourages application to graduate education in the health professions. The minimum undergraduate grade point average (GPA) required for graduate school admission at The University of Texas at El Paso is 3.0. Success in competitive graduate school admission in many of the health and rehabilitation professions requires a GPA as high as 3.5 or 3.6.

### **Academic Requirements**

Students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 and a minimum major Rehabilitation Sciences GPA of 3.00 to remain in good academic standing.

Failure to meet the minimum cumulative GPA and BS-RHSC GPA will result in academic probation. If placed on probation, the cumulative GPA and/or BS-RHSC GPA must be raised to a 3.00 by the conclusion of the next 12 required semester hours on the degree plan.

Students who receive a 'D', 'F', or more than two 'C' grades in their DRSC major courses will be directed to meet with the College of Health Sciences Academic Advisors to select another degree option.

### **Proposed change to the catalog**

#### **The Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences requires:**

1) General University Core (42 semester credit hours): Please refer to University Core Curriculum section of the catalog. All courses used to satisfy the core curriculum must be completed with a 'C' or better, per University policy. In order to complete this degree plan in the most efficient manner, students should meet with their academic advisor when selecting courses to meet both core and degree plan requirements.

2) Pre-professional preparation requirements (semester credit hours vary depending on option selected): Students are required to meet with BS-RHSC faculty and/or academic advisor when selecting their option. All courses used to satisfy the Pre-professional preparation requirements must be completed with a 'C' or better.

3) BS-RHSC Core (27 semester credit hour): Students are required to complete all 9 courses from the BS-RHSC Core. All courses used to satisfy the BS-RHSC Core requirements must be completed with a 'C' or better.

4) Minor(s) and/or prescribed electives (semester credit hours vary depending on option selected): Selection of approved minor(s) and/or prescribed electives must be approved by BS-RHSC faculty and/or academic advisor. All courses used to satisfy the prescribed electives requirements must be completed with a 'C' or better.

Minor(s): Approved minor(s) may include (list not inclusive): Biology, Chemistry, Health Promotion, Nutrition, Math, Psychology, Sociology, Speech Language Pathology, Statistics.

Prescribed Electives (semester credit hours vary depending on option selected): Selection of prescribed electives must be approved by BS-RHSC faculty and/or academic advisor.

5) Free electives (semester credit hours will vary ~~from 0—21 hours~~ depending on option selected). All courses used to satisfy the Free electives requirements must be completed with a 'C' or better.

## Admission Requirements

Students can declare their interest in a degree in Rehabilitation Sciences if they meet admission requirements to enroll at UTEP. Each semester, students are required to meet with a faculty advisor and/or academic advisor to review their academic standing, degree requirements and career interest.

It is important to note that this is a pre-professional program that encourages application to graduate education in the health professions. The minimum undergraduate grade point average (GPA) required for graduate school admission at The University of Texas at El Paso is 3.0. Success in competitive graduate school admission in many of the health and rehabilitation professions requires a GPA as high as 3.5 or 3.6.

## Academic Requirements

Students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 and a minimum major Rehabilitation Sciences (DRSC subject) GPA of 3.00 to remain in satisfactory good academic standing in the major.

Students who fail to meet the minimum cumulative GPA and BS-RHSC GPA will receive an Academic Warning. After receiving this Academic Warning, the cumulative GPA and/or BS-RHSC GPA must be raised to a 3.00 by the conclusion of next 12 completed UTEP semester hours (or the semester in which they complete those 12 hours). If the 3.0 is not reached by the end of the Academic Warning period, the student will be dismissed from the RHSC major and required to choose a new major. Students who have been dismissed from the RHSC major may not re-declare the major at a later date.

Students in the SPLA (Speech Language Pathology) ~~speech~~ concentration, in addition to the 3.0 cumulative GPA and 3.0 major GPA, must maintain a 3.0 SPLP GPA to stay in the SPLA ~~speech~~ concentration. If they fall below the 3.0 SPLP GPA, they cannot continue in that concentration; there will be no probationary period allowed to raise the SPLP ~~speech~~ GPA. Students who cannot continue in the SPLA ~~P~~ concentration will have the option to change to another concentration in the RHSC major only if they have a 3.0 cumulative GPA and 3.0 major GPA.

If the RHSC program director determines at any point in a student's Academic Warning period that it is mathematically impossible for the student to reach the 3.0 by the conclusion of the warning period, the student will be dismissed from the RHSC major at that time and required to choose a new major.

Students who receive a 'D', 'F', or more than two 'C' grades in their DRSC major courses (BS-RHSC Core) will be dismissed from the RHSC major and required to choose a new major. ~~directed to meet with the College of Health Sciences Academic Advisors to select another degree option.~~