

Memorandum

To: David Eaton, UW Graduate School

CC: Augustine McCaffery, Academic Affairs & Planning
Julia Carlson, Graduate Enrollment Management Services (GEMS)
Paul Detmer, UW Continuum College/PCE

Date: March 7, 2018

Re: **Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) Degree Program Closure Notification**

We are writing to inform you that the four year, Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) degree program, offered through the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences (SPHSC), will be closing. We are suspending admissions effective immediately and the program will enter a sunset phase starting Autumn 2018.

Over the last two years, College and Department leadership have been assessing the sustainability and viability of the clinical doctorate in audiology, by taking a hard look at the resources necessary to maintain the outstanding quality of the program. We have come to the realization that our financial situation will not support the investment necessary over the long term to keep this program viable at its current operating level. As a result, we have made the difficult but necessary decision to sunset the program. The Department Executive Committee and Audiology faculty voted to approve this action. Dean Bob Stacey also reviewed the closure decision and supporting data and has given approval to move forward with this change.

In terms of the communication and transition plans:

- The program will not be accepting a new cohort of students for Autumn 2018 entry. Admissions will be permanently suspended. Communications to current applicants and application fee reimbursements will be coordinated with GEMS.
- There are currently 3 cohorts of students still enrolled. Thus, the program will remain open through June 2021, when our last cohort of Au.D. students (1st years) is scheduled to graduate.
- Our public website will be updated today and all relevant constituents will be notified today (3/8/18) through a communication plan executed in collaboration with the College Marketing Department (e.g., faculty and staff, applicants, current students, UW community, clinical partners, patients, accrediting agency, etc.)
- Our partners at UW Continuum College/PCE have also been notified of the decision. We are still several weeks out on finalizing the formal sunsetting MOA with a 3 year budget forecast, but they are committed to supporting the program throughout the sunsetting process.

Best regards,



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Divisional Dean, Natural Sciences
College of Arts & Sciences



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