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Board Meeting

July 17, 2025

ELIMINATE THE DOCTOR OF AUDIOLOGY IN AUDIOLOGY, COLLEGE OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE, URBANA

**Action:** Eliminate the Doctor of Audiology in Audiology, College of Applied Health Sciences and the Graduate College

**Funding:** No impact

The chancellor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and vice president, University of Illinois System, with the advice of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate, recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Applied Health Sciences and the Graduate College to eliminate the Doctor of Audiology in Audiology (AuD).

The AuD is the entry-level degree for audiologists. This program has been facing challenges including a shortage of clinical faculty, a small applicant pool, an oversaturated market for AuDs, and a large number of AuD programs in the state of Illinois. There are currently five AuD programs in the state, three of which are at public universities. The majority of these programs are struggling with low applicant and enrollment numbers. Given these challenges, the Department of Speech and Hearing Science has opted to eliminate the program via phasedown, with the elimination receiving strong faculty support when voted on in November 2024.

There are currently 23 students across the four years of the AuD program. The department will continue to offer the courses these students need to complete their program for three more years, so that all four cohorts can finish their degree. If a current student chooses to pause their studies, as long as that pause extends no more than a year beyond the rest of the cohort’s time, the department will provide them with needed coursework through independent study enrollment. No new students were admitted last year, nor will any future students be admitted.

The courses offered that are specific to the AuD program will be phased down and ultimately eliminated following the phasedown timeline for the program. Faculty currently teaching in the AuD program will teach in the undergraduate Speech and Hearing Science program and/or the department’s PhD program. Thus, there are no overall courseload changes anticipated for faculty. Impact on staff resources, facilities, and equipment is expected to be minimal given the small number of students overall in the AuD program and the continued presence of the PhD program in Speech and Hearing Science, which uses overlapping staff and facility resources.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The executive vice president and vice president for academic affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further senate jurisdiction is involved.

The president of the University of Illinois System recommends approval. This action is subject to further review by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.