


**KENT STATE**
UNIVERSITY
EAST LIVERPOOL

To: Dr. Lynne Rowan, Director of School of Speech Pathology and Audiology

From: Harriett S. Bynum, OCAT Program Director 

Date: May 13, 2009

Re: Program Change

The faculty and administration of the Occupational Therapy Assistant Technology Program have determined the need to increase the admission GPA requirement from 2.5 to 2.7. Attached you will find the CCP form and proposal summary explaining the rationale for the revision of this program requirement. Please forward the forms through the various departments. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me at 77426 or email hbynum@kent.edu.

Proposal Summary

Title: Revision of the OCAT Program Minimum Admission Grade Point Average

Subject Specification: The intent of this proposal is to increase the OCAT program minimum admission grade point average from 2.5 to 2.7.

Background Information: This proposal is designed to raise the GPA admission requirement for the OCAT Program from 2.5 to 2.7 to increase student success in meeting OCAT program requirements for graduation. The rationale for increasing the admission GPA is as follows:

1. Students who have a GPA between 2.5 and 2.7 typically have difficulties completing program requirements successfully. These students either withdraw or fail related or core OCAT courses or withdraw or were dismissed from the program. This can be illustrated by reviewing numbers of the past three years:

| 2005-2007 Admission GPA | Percentage of students Who Had Difficulties | Graduates 2007-2009 Completing the Program |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| 2.5-2.6 | 89% | 55% |
| 2.7-3.0 | 12% | 100% |

Students with an admission GPA of 2.7-3.0 are able to complete the OCAT program successfully and with fewer difficulties.

2. The GPA requirement for other allied health programs at KSU is 2.7 or 2.75. The OCAT program GPA admission requirement would conform with that of other allied health program if it is increased to 2.7. Some student who are not accepted in other allied health program, turn to the OCAT program for admission. These students often have lower grade point averages, but meet OCAT Program admission requirement. Again, these students have difficulties completing the OCAT program successfully.

Raising the minimum GPA will not impact the program fiscally. There has been an increased interest in the program and new classes have been full.

Alternatives and Consequences: The alternative would be to maintain the current OCAT program minimum admission grade point average at 2.5. the consequence would be program acceptance of students with lower GPAs who may have to withdraw or will be dismissed from the program resulting in decreased OCAT retention rates. The percentage of students meeting program demands will continue to be mediocre (67%).

Specific Recommendation and Justification: Increase OCAT program minimum grade point average requirement from 2.5 to 2.7 to improve student retention and passage to the national certification examination.

Timetable and Actions Required:

Dr. Rowan, Director of Speech Pathology & Audiology, May 13, 2009

