

Memorandum on Merging Two Departments in the College of Health Sciences

Request to Move Merger Date of the Departments of Communication Sciences & Disorders and Rehabilitation Sciences & Technology Forward from July 1, 2023 to November 1, 2022

To the Faculty Senate:

The Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders and Department of Rehabilitation Sciences & Technology have voted to merge ahead of the scheduled 2030 realignment on July 1, 2023 when the School of Rehabilitation Sciences & Technology within the College of Health Professions and Sciences will form. (This combining of units has been approved as a part of the 2030 campus realignment; Faculty Document No. 3388, approved by the UWM Faculty Senate on December 16, 2021, and by the Education Committee of the Board of Regents on February 10, 2022).

Rationale:

As part of the 2030 realignment, the Departments of Communication Sciences & Disorders and Rehabilitation Sciences & Technology will combine to form a non-departmentalized School of Rehabilitation Sciences & Technology in the new College of Health Professions and Sciences. This new School will bring UWM's Athletic Training, Assistive Technology, Audiology, Occupational Therapy, Performance Psychology, Physical Therapy, Speech and Language Pathology, and Therapeutic Recreation faculty together into a single unit where they can more easily pursue inter-professional education and practice, and collaborative research that will benefit the students of UWM and communities that the future graduates and UWM serve.

Moving the merger date of these two departments forward to November 1, 2022 will give the combined faculty and staff eight months to work together on building shared culture, policy, and operating workflows prior to the launch of the new School and College.

With this merger, the Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences & Disorder, Master of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders, and the 'COMDIS' curricular code will move into the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences & Technology.