

From: [Smith, Randy](#)
To: [Bielefeld, Eric](#)
Cc: [Williams, Valarie](#); [Smith, Randy](#); [Griffiths, Rob](#); [Reed, Katie](#); [Miriti, Maria](#); [Duffy, Lisa](#); [Hunt, Ryan](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#); [Martin, Andrew](#); [King, Ryan](#); [Horn, David](#); [Talbot, Ann](#); [Warren, Adam](#); [Eveland, Jessica](#)
Subject: Proposal to change the name of select graduate programs in the Department of Speech and Hearing Science
Date: Friday, October 23, 2026 4:42:46 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Eric:

The proposal from the Department of Speech and Hearing Science to change the following program titles was approved by the Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on October 21, 2026:

- Change the Master of Arts in Speech and Hearing Science to the Master of Arts in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
- Change the PhD in Speech and Hearing Science to the PhD in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
- Change the graduate minor in Speech and Hearing Science to the graduate minor in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

Thank you for attending the meeting to respond to questions/comments.

The proposal to change the degree's names will now be sent to the Board of Trustees for action at its meeting on December 3, 2026. If approved by the Board, the Graduate School will work with you on the submission process with the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

Once fully approved, the Office of the University Registrar will work with you on any implementation issues.

Please keep a copy of this message for your file on the proposal and I will do the same for the file in the Office of Academic Affairs.

If you have any questions please contact the Chair of the Council, Professor Valarie Williams(.1415), or me.

I wish you success with this important program development.

Randy



W. Randy Smith, Ph.D.

Vice Provost for Academic Programs

Office of Academic Affairs

University Square South, 15 E. 15th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201

614-292-5881 Office

smith.70@osu.edu

Assisted by:

Katie Reed

Executive Assistant

(614) 292-5672

From: [Smith, Randy](#)
To: [Bielefeld, Eric](#)
Cc: [Williams, Valarie](#); [Smith, Randy](#); [Griffiths, Rob](#); [Miriti, Maria](#); [Reed, Katie](#); [Duffy, Lisa](#); [Hunt, Ryan](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#); [Martin, Andrew](#); [King, Ryan](#); [Horn, David](#); [Talbot, Ann](#); [Warren, Adam](#); [Eveland, Jessica](#)
Subject: Proposal to change the name of select undergraduate programs in the Department of Speech and Hearing Science
Date: Friday, October 23, 2026 4:14:53 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Eric:

The proposal from the Department of Speech and Hearing Science to change the following program titles was approved by the Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on October 21, 2026:

- Change the Speech and Hearing Science major to the Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences major leading to the Bachelor of Arts
- Change the undergraduate minor in Speech and Hearing Science to the undergraduate minor in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

Thank you for attending the meeting to respond to questions/comments.

The proposal to change the major's name will now be sent to the Board of Trustees for action at its meeting on December 3, 2026. If approved by the Board, my office will work with you on the submission process with the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

Once fully approved, the Office of the University Registrar will work with you on any implementation issues.

Please keep a copy of this message for your file on the proposal and I will do the same for the file in the Office of Academic Affairs.

If you have any questions please contact the Chair of the Council, Professor Valarie Williams(.1415), or me.

I wish you success with this important program development.

Randy



W. Randy Smith, Ph.D.

Vice Provost for Academic Programs

Office of Academic Affairs

University Square South, 15 E. 15th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201

614-292-5881 Office
smith.70@osu.edu

Assisted by:

Katie Reed

Executive Assistant

(614) 292-5672

TO: Randy Smith, Vice Provost for Academic Programs

FROM: Graduate School Curriculum Services

DATE: June 4, 2026

RE: Proposal to rename the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, Master of Speech and Hearing Sciences, PhD in Speech and Hearing Sciences, and the Graduate Minor in Speech and Hearing Sciences to Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences.

The Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences is proposing to rename the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, Master of Speech and Hearing Sciences, PhD in Speech and Hearing Sciences, and the Graduate Minor in Speech and Hearing Sciences to Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences.

The proposal was received by the Graduate School on April 30, 2026. The combined GS/CAA subcommittee first reviewed the proposal on June 1, 2026, and supported its review by the Council on Academic Affairs.



Department of Speech and Hearing Science
110 Pressey Hall
1070 Carmack Road
Columbus, OH 43210-1002

614-292-9436 Phone
614-292-7504 Fax

bielefeld.6@osu.edu

April 8, 2026

From: Eric Bielefeld, Chair of the Department of Speech and Hearing Science

To: Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

Re: Proposal to change the name of the department of Speech and Hearing Science

The department is requesting to change the name of the department from 'Speech and Hearing Science' to 'Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences'. The rationale for the change is presented below in the proposal. The goal is for the changes to go into effect starting in Autumn semester 2027.

Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns as the proposal moves through the college and university review bodies. Thanks very much.

Sincerely,

Eric Bielefeld, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
Dept of Speech and Hearing Science
The Ohio State University

Proposal to change the name of the department of Speech and Hearing Science

Questions:

1. Given the request for the name change of the department of Speech and Hearing to the department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences (SLHS), there are a few items of clarity related to this.
 - a. More information about use of this terminology in the workforce
 - b. The accreditation nomenclature typically used – it is mentioned; however, more specifically need to identify how it is referenced or stated in relation to this accrediting body.
 - c. Given the emphasis on multilingualism in the rationale for adding ‘language’ to the name, we recommend seeking concurrence from Modern Language Departments (which house linguistic programs) e.g. Spanish & Portuguese, French & Italian etc
2. Other benchmarking
 - a. Need comparison data listed from other schools with clarification on those names and how they relate to this name change



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October 7, 2026

From: Eric Bielefeld, Chair of the Department of Speech and Hearing Science

To: Council on Academic Affairs

Re: Proposal to change the name of the department of Speech and Hearing Science

The department is requesting to change the name of the department from 'Speech and Hearing Science' to 'Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences'. The rationale for the change is presented below in the proposal. The goal is for the changes to go into effect starting in Autumn semester 2027.

The proposal has been revised in response to a request for additional information from the reviewing subcommittee.

Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns. Thanks very much.

Sincerely,

Eric Bielefeld, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
Dept of Speech and Hearing Science
The Ohio State University

The current department of Speech and Hearing Science is a TIU in the division of Social and Behavioral Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences. Our department comprises faculty and students who have interests in researching speech, language, hearing, swallowing, and the vestibular system. At the undergraduate level, we have a Speech and Hearing Science major leading to the Bachelor of Arts, as well as a minor. We have five graduate programs: a PhD in Speech and Hearing Science, a master of arts in Speech and Hearing Science, a master of arts in speech-language pathology (MA-SLP), a doctor of audiology (AuD), and a graduate minor in Speech and Hearing Science.

Proposed change and rationale

The department of Speech and Hearing Science is proposing to change its name to the department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences (SLHS).

Our research and clinical interests include language development and acquisition, developmental language disorders, multilingualism, and neurodivergent communication. A big part of the work that we do is educating future clinical professionals who work in communication: audiologists and speech-language pathologists. The professional title of ‘speech-language pathologist’ specifically denotes the extent to which language is part of our scope of practice and expertise, and ‘speech-language pathologist’ or ‘SLP’ is the standard nomenclature used in the profession. We renamed our on-campus clinic the Ohio State University Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic several years ago. However, our department name ‘Speech and Hearing Science’ fails to capture the significant emphasis on language for our research, clinical work, and educational programs. We feel that now is the time to update our department name to reflect the breadth of work that we do.

Our major professional organization is the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). Their specialized accrediting body is the Council on Academic Accreditation for Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (<https://caa.asha.org/>). While the department name is not a requirement for accreditation, ASHA’s Council on Academic Accreditation accredits our MA-SLP using the nomenclature of ‘speech-language pathology’ with its appropriate emphasis on language in the profession. Naming our department ‘Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences’ reflects the appropriate inclusion of language expertise of our faculty and students.

Peer institutions’ unit names

Our field does not have a singular naming convention that all, or even a large majority of units use. In an overview of 49 units at peer institutions, the most common nomenclature is ‘Communication (or Communicative) Sciences and Disorders’ (CSD) or ‘Communication Disorders and Sciences’ (CDS). This was reflected in 24 of the 49 names researched. There are a small number of ‘Speech and Hearing Science’ titles (n=7, including our current title here at Ohio State), or variations thereof. ‘Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences’ is being used increasingly often in our field (n=12). Please see Appendix A for the full list of department titles researched from peer institutions.

Impact on program titles

Along with changing the name of the department, we are proposing to change the following program titles:

- 1) Speech and Hearing Science major leading to the Bachelor of Arts to Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences major leading to the Bachelor of Arts



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- 2) Undergraduate minor in Speech and Hearing Sciences to minor in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
- 3) MA in Speech and Hearing Science to the MA in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
- 4) PhD in Speech and Hearing Science to the PhD in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
- 5) Graduate minor in Speech and Hearing Science to graduate minor in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

These name changes are again intended to reflect more accurately the breadth of educational experiences our students receive across these programs.

Implementation

The goal would be to implement this name change at the start of the academic year in August 2027. This would provide time to update program titles with the College of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate School, and the Registrar's Office. It would also allow the department time to update our website and all relevant digital and physical signage. We will also need to register the changed name with the Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board (which provides licensure to speech-language pathologists and audiologists in the state of Ohio), the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (which provides certification to many audiologists and speech-language pathologists in the country), and the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (which provides the specialized accreditation for our AuD and MA-SLP programs).

Transition Plan and Impact on Current Students

All current students would be made aware of the name change, so that they can update their email and social media accordingly. The first minors or BA, MA, or PhD degrees with the name 'Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences' would be awarded at Autumn commencement in 2027. Students will be made aware of this impending change as soon as the proposal is approved by the Board of Trustees. As solely a name change, this will not affect any student's matriculation through their degree program, nor affect them financially.

Process

The proposal was generated by the department chair. It was approved by the full department faculty at their meeting on April 3, 2026. Concurrences were granted from the departments of Linguistics, East Asian Languages and Literatures, French and Italian, Germanic Languages and Literatures, Near Eastern and South Asian Languages and Cultures, Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures, and Spanish and Portuguese. In addition, we requested and were granted concurrences from the Center for Languages, Literatures and Cultures and the Buckeye Sign Language and Multimodal Collaborative. The concurrences received are presented in Appendix B.

Appendix A: Department names at peer institutions

University	Department Name
Communication Disorders (n=3)	

University of Alabama	Department of Communicative Disorders
Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center	Department of Communication Disorders
Brigham Young University	Department of Communication Disorders
Communicative Sciences and Disorders/CDS (n=24)	
University of Arkansas	Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
University of Kentucky	Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge)	Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders
University of Mississippi	Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders
University of Georgia	Department of Communication Sciences & Special Education (Communication Sciences & Disorders)
University of South Carolina	Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Texas A&M University	Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders
Baylor University	Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
University of Cincinnati	Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
University of Houston	Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Kansas State University	Communication Sciences and Disorders
University of Oklahoma	Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Oklahoma State University	Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Texas Christian University	Davies School of Communication Sciences & Disorders
University of Michigan	Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Michigan State University	Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Northwestern University	Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
University of Wisconsin– Madison	Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Pennsylvania State University	Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
University of Iowa	Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
University of Oregon	Communication Disorders and Sciences
University of Pittsburgh	Communication Disorders and Sciences
MGH Health Institute	Communication Disorders and Sciences
Florida State University	Communication Disorders and Sciences
Miscellaneous (n=3)	
University of Tennessee	Department of Audiology & Speech Pathology
Rutgers University	Department of Rehabilitation and Movement Sciences
University of Nebraska– Lincoln / Omaha	Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders
Speech and Hearing Science (n=7)	
The Ohio State University	Department of Speech and Hearing Science
University of Illinois Urbana–Champaign	Department of Speech and Hearing Science
University of Maryland	Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences
University of Washington	Speech and Hearing Sciences



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University of North Carolina Chapel Hill	Speech and Hearing Sciences
Arizona State University	Speech and Hearing Sciences
Vanderbilt University	Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences
Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences (n=12)	
Auburn University	Department of Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences
University of Florida	Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
University of Missouri	Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences
University of Kansas	Speech-Language-Hearing: Sciences & Disorders
University of Texas at Austin	Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
Indiana University Bloomington	Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
Purdue University (West Lafayette)	Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
University of Minnesota – Twin Cities	Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
Boston University	Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
San Diego State University	Speech Language and Hearing Sciences
University of Arizona	Speech Language and Hearing Sciences
University of Texas at Dallas	Speech, Language, and Hearing

Appendix B: Concurrences

1) Center for Languages, Literatures and Cultures

Re: Concurrence request

From Askj, Janice <aski.1@osu.edu>
Date Wed 4/8/2026 9:26 AM
To Bielefeld, Eric <bielefeld.6@osu.edu>

Hi Eric, you have my concurrence! I hope this means we can find ways to collaborate! JA

Janice M. Askj
Professor of Italian
Director of the Center for Languages Literatures and Cultures
The Ohio State University
100 Hagerty Hall
1550 College Ave.
Columbus, OH 43201

From: Bielefeld, Eric <bielefeld.6@osu.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2026 10:11 AM
To: Askj, Janice <aski.1@osu.edu>
Subject: Concurrence request

Hi Janice,

Sorry to bother you during a busy time of the year. My department, Speech and Hearing Science, is requesting to change our name to the 'Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences' to reflect the breadth of work we do in language development and treatment and to bring our title into alignment with more peer units across the country.

I am requesting concurrence from the Center for Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. There is minimal overlap in our respective units' missions, but I want to make sure there isn't a concern about potential confusion from students or stakeholders with the introduction of 'Language' into our department name.

I've attached the proposal to this email, and I'd be happy to discuss this with you any time if you have questions or concerns.

Thanks,
Eric

Eric Bielefeld, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
Department of Speech and Hearing Science
The Ohio State University
Pronouns: he/him/his

2) Department of Linguistics



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Re: Concurrence request

From: Bielefeld, Eric <bielefeld.6@osu.edu>
Date: Wed 4/8/2026 9:57 AM
To: Schuler, William <schuler.77@osu.edu>

Much appreciated, thank you!

Eric Bielefeld, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
Department of Speech and Hearing Science
The Ohio State University
Pronouns: he/him/his

From: Schuler, William <schuler.77@osu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 9:54 AM
To: Bielefeld, Eric <bielefeld.6@osu.edu>
Subject: Re: Concurrence request

Hi Eric,

Linguistics does use the term 'language science' to describe work in psycholinguistics, but we acknowledge that the term is widely used in speech and hearing science as well, so we have voted to concur.

William Schuler
Professor and Chair
Department of Linguistics
The Ohio State University

From: Bielefeld, Eric <bielefeld.6@osu.edu>
Date: Monday, April 6, 2026 at 10:15 AM
To: Schuler, William <schuler.77@osu.edu>
Subject: Concurrence request

Hi Prof. Schuler,

I am writing as chair of the department of Speech and Hearing Science. Sorry to bother you during a busy time of the year. My department is requesting to change our name to the 'Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences' to reflect the breadth of work we do in language development, disorder diagnosis and treatment, and to bring our title into alignment with more peer units across the country.

I am requesting concurrence from the department of Linguistics. While I think the lines between what we study and teach and what your department studies and teaches are pretty clear, I want to make sure

4/8/26, 11:57 AM

Re: Concurrence request - Bielefeld, Eric - Outlook

there isn't a concern about potential confusion from students or stakeholders with the introduction of 'Language' into our department name.

I've attached the proposal to this email, and I'd be happy to discuss this with you any time if you have questions or concerns.

Thanks,
Eric

Eric Bielefeld, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
Department of Speech and Hearing Science
The Ohio State University
Pronouns: he/him/his

3) Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures

Concurrence request  Summarize this email



Taleghani-Nikazm, Carmen

To:  Bielefeld, Eric

Tue 10/6/2026 9:27 PM

Dear Eric,

My apologies for the late response. Yes, of course, you have our concurrence. The name change makes sense.

Best,
Carmen

Carmen Taleghani-Nikazm
Professor
Chair, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures
College of Arts and Sciences
498-E Hagerty Hall
1775 College Rd, Columbus, OH 43210
614-292-6985 Office

4) Department of Spanish and Portuguese



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Concurrence request

Summarize this email



Martinez-Cruz, Paloma

To: Bielefeld, Eric



Tue 10/6/2026 12:50 PM



You replied on Tue 10/6/2026 7:27 PM

Hi Eric,

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in. There is support for the proposal among SPPO colleagues.

Best,

Paloma

Paloma Martinez-Cruz

Chair, Department of Spanish and Portuguese
Professor of Latinx and Latin American Cultural Studies
The Ohio State University
website: <https://www.palomamartinezcruz.com/>
she/her/ella

Trust the Circle: The Resistance and Resilience of Rubén Castilla Herrera
<https://store.wexarts.org/trust-the-circle-the-resistance-of-ruben-castilla-herrera>

Food Fight! Millennial Mestizaje meets the Culinary Marketplace
(University of Arizona Press, 2019)

Women and Knowledge in Mesoamerica: From East L.A. to Anahuac
(University of Arizona Press, 2011)

Concurrence request  Summarize this email



Robinson, Octavian

To:  Bielefeld, Eric



Tue 10/6/2026 10:26 AM

 You replied on Tue 10/6/2026 10:28 AM

Hi Eric,

No objections here. I hope we'll have the opportunity to collaborate in the not-too-distant future.

Best,



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Octavian Robinson

Associate Professor

Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

The Ohio State University

Director, Buckeye Sign Language and Multimodal Collaborative

100D Hagerty Hall

1775 College Road S, Columbus, OH 43210

614 328 8014 Home

robinson.948@osu.edu

Pronouns: he/him



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Concurrence request

 Summarize this email



Past, Elena

To:  Bielefeld, Eric



Wed 9/30/2026 9:47 AM



You replied on Wed 9/30/2026 10:12 AM

Dear Eric,

We have no issues with this request for concurrence. It sounds like an important change that reflects the work you do!

Best wishes,

Elena



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Elena Past

Chair, Department of French & Italian

Professor of Italian

The Ohio State University

College of Arts & Sciences

Department of French & Italian

200 Hagerty Hall

1775 College Road, Columbus, OH 43210

614-292-4938 Office

7) Department of Near Eastern and South Asian Languages and Cultures

Concurrence request  Summarize this email



Liu, Morgan

To:  Bielefeld, Eric



Tue 9/29/2026 4:54 PM

 You replied on Tue 9/29/2026 4:56 PM

You have NESA's concurrence. Best of luck!

Best wishes, Morgan

Morgan Y. Liu

Chair, Department of

Near Eastern & South Asian
Languages & Cultures

Associate Professor

Department of Anthropology

The Ohio State University

Postal: Department of NESA

300 Hagerty Hall

1775 College Road

Columbus, OH 43210-1340

U.S.A.

liu.737@osu.edu

u.osu.edu/liu.737/about-me/

8) Department of Slavic and Eastern European Languages and Cultures

Concurrence request  Summarize this email



Suchland, Jennifer

To:  Bielefeld, Eric



Tue 9/29/2026 8:24 AM

Of course!

My best,
Jenny



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Jennifer Suchland, PhD

Associate Professor

Pronouns: she/her

The Ohio State University

College of Arts & Sciences

Interim Chair, Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures

Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies

Affiliated Faculty - Center for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies

9) Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures



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Request for concurrence

 Summarize this email



Sieber, Patricia



To:  Bielefeld, Eric



Tue 9/29/2026 7:41 AM



You replied on Tue 9/29/2026 9:46 AM

Dear Dr. Bielefeld,

Our department grants concurrence. Thanks,

Patricia Sieber, PhD

Professor and Chair

Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures

1775 College Road

The Ohio State University

Columbus, OH 43220, USA

<https://deall.osu.edu/people/sieber.6>

TO: Randy Smith, Vice Provost for Academic Programs

FROM: Graduate School Curriculum Services

DATE: June 4, 2026

RE: Proposal to rename the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, Master of Speech and Hearing Sciences, PhD in Speech and Hearing Sciences, and the Graduate Minor in Speech and Hearing Sciences to Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences.

The Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences is proposing to rename the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, Master of Speech and Hearing Sciences, PhD in Speech and Hearing Sciences, and the Graduate Minor in Speech and Hearing Sciences to Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences.

The proposal was received by the Graduate School on April 30, 2026. The combined GS/CAA subcommittee first reviewed the proposal on June 1, 2026, and supported its review by the Council on Academic Affairs.



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110 Pressey Hall
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614-292-9436 Phone
614-292-7504 Fax

bielefeld.6@osu.edu

April 8, 2026

From: Eric Bielefeld, Chair of the Department of Speech and Hearing Science

To: Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

Re: Proposal to change the name of the department of Speech and Hearing Science

The department is requesting to change the name of the department from 'Speech and Hearing Science' to 'Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences'. The rationale for the change is presented below in the proposal. The goal is for the changes to go into effect starting in Autumn semester 2027.

Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns as the proposal moves through the college and university review bodies. Thanks very much.

Sincerely,

Eric Bielefeld, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
Dept of Speech and Hearing Science
The Ohio State University

The current department of Speech and Hearing Science is a TIU in the division of Social and Behavioral Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences. Our department comprises faculty and students who have interests in researching speech, language, hearing, swallowing, and the vestibular system. We have an undergraduate bachelor of arts in Speech and Hearing Science, as well as a minor. We have five graduate programs: a PhD in Speech and Hearing Science, a master of arts in Speech and Hearing Science, a master of arts in speech-language pathology (MA-SLP), a doctor of audiology (AuD), and a graduate minor in Speech and Hearing Science.

Proposed change and rationale

The department of Speech and Hearing Science is proposing to change its name to the department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences (SLHS).

Our research and clinical interests include language development and acquisition, developmental language disorders, multilingualism, and neurodivergent communication. Our specialized accrediting body and major professional organization is the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. We renamed our on-campus clinic the Ohio State University Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic several years ago. However, our department name ‘Speech and Hearing Science’ fails to capture the significant emphasis on language for our research, clinical work, and educational programs. We feel that now is the time to update our department name to reflect the breadth of work that we do.

Peer institutions’ unit names

Our field does not have a singular naming convention that all, or even a large majority of units use. In an overview of 50 units at peer institutions, the most common nomenclature is ‘Communication (or Communicative) Sciences and Disorders’ (CSD) or ‘Communication Disorders and Sciences’ (CDS). There are a small number of ‘Speech and Hearing Science’ titles, or variations thereof. ‘Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences’ is being used increasingly often in our field.

Impact on program titles

Along with changing the name of the department, we are proposing to change the following program titles:

- 1) Undergraduate BA degree in Speech and Hearing Science to the BA in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
- 2) Undergraduate minor in Speech and Hearing Sciences to minor in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
- 3) MA in Speech and Hearing Science to the MA in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
- 4) PhD in Speech and Hearing Science to the PhD in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
- 5) Graduate minor in Speech and Hearing Science to graduate minor in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

These name changes are again intended to reflect more accurately the breadth of educational experiences our students receive across these programs.

Implementation

The goal would be to implement this name change at the start of the academic year in August 2027. This would provide time to update program titles with the College of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate



School, and the Registrar's Office. It would also allow the department time to update our website and all relevant digital and physical signage. We will also need to register the changed name with the Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board (which provides licensure to speech-language pathologists and audiologists in the state of Ohio), the America Speech-Language-Hearing Association (which provides certification to many audiologists and speech-language pathologists in the country), and the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (which provides the specialized accreditation for our AuD and MA-SLP programs).

Transition Plan and Impact on Current Students

All current students would be made aware of the name change, so that they can update their email and social media accordingly. The first minors or BA, MA, or PhD degrees with the name 'Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences' would be awarded at Autumn commencement in 2027. Students will be made aware of this impending change as soon as the proposal is approved by the Board of Trustees. As solely a name change, this will not affect any student's matriculation through their degree program, nor affect them financially.

Process

The proposal was generated by the department chair. It was approved by the full department faculty at their meeting on April 3, 2026. Following that approval, concurrences were sought from the department of Linguistics and the Center for Languages, Literatures and Cultures. Those concurrences are presented in Appendix A.

Appendix A: Concurrences

1) Center for Languages, Literatures and Cultures

Re: Concurrence request

From Askj, Janice <aski.1@osu.edu>
Date Wed 4/8/2026 9:26 AM
To Bielefeld, Eric <bielefeld.6@osu.edu>

Hi Eric, you have my concurrence! I hope this means we can find ways to collaborate! JA

Janice M. Askj
Professor of Italian
Director of the Center for Languages Literatures and Cultures
The Ohio State University
100 Hagerty Hall
1550 College Ave.
Columbus, OH 43201

From: Bielefeld, Eric <bielefeld.6@osu.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2026 10:11 AM
To: Askj, Janice <aski.1@osu.edu>
Subject: Concurrence request

Hi Janice,

Sorry to bother you during a busy time of the year. My department, Speech and Hearing Science, is requesting to change our name to the 'Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences' to reflect the breadth of work we do in language development and treatment and to bring our title into alignment with more peer units across the country.

I am requesting concurrence from the Center for Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. There is minimal overlap in our respective units' missions, but I want to make sure there isn't a concern about potential confusion from students or stakeholders with the introduction of 'Language' into our department name.

I've attached the proposal to this email, and I'd be happy to discuss this with you any time if you have questions or concerns.

Thanks,
Eric

Eric Bielefeld, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
Department of Speech and Hearing Science
The Ohio State University
Pronouns: he/him/his

2) Department of Linguistics



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Re: Concurrence request

From: Bielefeld, Eric <bielefeld.6@osu.edu>
Date: Wed 4/8/2026 9:57 AM
To: Schuler, William <schuler.77@osu.edu>

Much appreciated, thank you!

Eric Bielefeld, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
Department of Speech and Hearing Science
The Ohio State University
Pronouns: he/him/his

From: Schuler, William <schuler.77@osu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 9:54 AM
To: Bielefeld, Eric <bielefeld.6@osu.edu>
Subject: Re: Concurrence request

Hi Eric,

Linguistics does use the term 'language science' to describe work in psycholinguistics, but we acknowledge that the term is widely used in speech and hearing science as well, so we have voted to concur.

William Schuler
Professor and Chair
Department of Linguistics
The Ohio State University

From: Bielefeld, Eric <bielefeld.6@osu.edu>
Date: Monday, April 6, 2026 at 10:15 AM
To: Schuler, William <schuler.77@osu.edu>
Subject: Concurrence request

Hi Prof. Schuler,

I am writing as chair of the department of Speech and Hearing Science. Sorry to bother you during a busy time of the year. My department is requesting to change our name to the 'Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences' to reflect the breadth of work we do in language development, disorder diagnosis and treatment, and to bring our title into alignment with more peer units across the country.

I am requesting concurrence from the department of Linguistics. While I think the lines between what we study and teach and what your department studies and teaches are pretty clear, I want to make sure

4/8/26, 11:57 AM

Re: Concurrence request - Bielefeld, Eric - Outlook

there isn't a concern about potential confusion from students or stakeholders with the introduction of 'Language' into our department name.

I've attached the proposal to this email, and I'd be happy to discuss this with you any time if you have questions or concerns.

Thanks,
Eric

Eric Bielefeld, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
Department of Speech and Hearing Science
The Ohio State University
Pronouns: he/him/his