

# **Communication Science & Disorders**

## **Unit Mission and Description**

### **Unit Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Department of Communications Science and Disorders is to establish and provide distinctive academic programs for students in Speech-Language Pathology, collaborations with community partners, and service to individuals with communication, voice, and swallowing disorders across the life span.

The department is committed to preparing students to become dedicated, competent clinical leaders in the field of Speech Language Pathology. The curriculum cultivates global and professional awareness and emphasizes the problem solving and critical thinking skills necessary to become strong clinical professionals capable of serving a clinically, racially, and culturally diverse client population.

### **Unit Descriptive Analysis:**

The CSD department offers B.S and M.S. degrees in Speech-Language Pathology. The graduate program is accredited by the Council of Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA).

We have 5 full time faculty, 1 Clinic Director, and 2 Clinical Supervisors. The department operates a Speech and Language Center that serves over 100 clients each year. Graduate students provide assessment and intervention to individuals across the lifespan under the supervision of the faculty and staff. All services are provided free of charge. The department strives to prepare strong undergraduate students who are ready for graduate study and graduate students who will go forward to represent the program as outstanding professionals in the community.

The department typically has 45-50 full time graduate students (approximately 25 per cohort) and about 75 undergraduate students. Our most pressing challenge is to continuously revise our courses and improve our own technical skills to meet the accreditation requirements as the profession grows and changes. Another challenge is maintaining a strong undergraduate program to feed into our graduate program. There are now 7 MS SLP programs in the state, resulting in fewer applications each year.

The program typically develops a 3-5 year strategic plan to assist us with yearly planning. We developed a new strategic plan during the fall of the 2021. A brief summary is provided at the end of this narrative.

## **2023-2024 CSD Unit Plan Overview**

Goals 1 of the current unit plan relates to HIPAA policies. We anticipate a time when a student may violate our policies and we need to determine courses of action based on severity.

Goals 2, 5, and 6 relate to teaching and learning. Goal 2 relates to updating course descriptions to reflect current course content. Goal 5 relates to increasing graduate student opportunity for interprofessional practice. Goal 6 targets student competency with the clinical equipment in our program.

**Supports CSD Strategic Plan focus area 2: Innovations in Teaching and Learning goal B:2**

**Supports UM strategic plan: *Innovations for Teaching and Learning*.**

Goals 3 and 4 related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). For Goal 3, with the help of a diverse committee, we will review our internal clinical forms. Goal 4 will focus our efforts to complete a book study on inclusive teaching.

**Supports CSD Focus Area 1: Diversity and Social Justice, Strategic Plan Goal A:1**

**Supports UM strategic plan: *Diversity and Social Justice-Addressing Historic and Systemic Racism, Focus and Growth*.**

Goal 7 supports the UM QEP.

**Supports CSD Strategic Plan Focus Area 2: Innovations in Teaching and Learning**  
**Supports UM strategic plan: *Innovations for Teaching and Learning***

## **CSD 2022-2023 Unit Plan Goals**

**Start:** 10/1/2023 **End:** 9/30/2024

### **HIPAA policies**

**Number:** 1

**Start:**10/1/2023

**End:**9/30/2024

**Goal:** Explore and revise current departmental policies related to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

**Intended Outcome:** Create an action plan for dealing with suspected HIPAA violations within the department.

**Assessment Measures:** The department currently requires and provides HIPAA training and has a policy stating consequences for major violations. The Clinic Director will provide a new action plan detailing the steps faculty and staff should take when a violation is suspected and will provide a more complete set of consequences based on proof and severity.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONNECTION-----  
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RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**DSJ - Goal 1**

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**Goal 5 - Theme 2**

**Course Descriptions**

**Number:**2

**Start:**10/1/2023

**End:**9/30/2024

**Goal:** Instructors will review their graduate course descriptions and revise as needed to reflect current course practices.

**Intended Outcome:** All graduate course descriptions will be reviewed and updated if warranted.

**Assessment Measures:** Each instructor will submit a form with changes requested and the Department Chair will submit them for approval through Curriculog.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)**

**Number:**3

**Start:**10/1/2023

**End:**9/30/2024

**Goal:** Review and revise clinic forms (clinic intake and case history) from a DEI Perspective.

**Intended Outcome:** Clinic forms will be reviewed and revised by Ms. Kirkland and an advisory board representing multiple cultures and perspectives including, but not limited to, race, religion, and sexual orientation.

**Assessment Measures:** Revised forms and a summary from the committee's work.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONNECTION-----

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RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**DSJ - Goal 3**

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**Goal 18 - Theme 3**

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**Goal 22 - Theme 3**

## **Book Study**

**Number:**4

**Start:** 10/1/2023

**End:** 9/30/2024

**Goal:** Departmental members will engage in a book study designed to enhance skills in inclusive teaching.

**Intended Outcome:** The book study will be completed by at least 8/9 departmental members.

**Assessment Measures:** Dr. Murdock will work with faculty to choose a book and schedule book discussions.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONNECTION-----

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RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**DSJ - Goal 3**

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**Goal 22 - Theme 3**

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**Goal 29 - Theme 4**

## **Interprofessional Practice**

**Number:**5

**Start:**10/1/2023

**End:** 9/30/2024

**Goal:** SLP Graduate students will engage in an interprofessional practice opportunity with at least one other discipline.

**Intended Outcome:** Dr. Edwards will take the lead and will organize a novel interprofessional practice opportunity.

**Assessment Measures:** The new interprofessional practice opportunity will be completed by at least 20 graduate students.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONNECTION-----  
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RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

## **Goal 17 - Theme 3**

### **Equipment Training**

**Number:** 6

**Start:** 10/1/2023

**End:** 9/30/2024

**Goal:** Graduate students will learn to utilize specialized equipment in the department.

**Intended Outcome:** The department will develop a dedicated time/event during which all first-year graduate students will learn to utilize specialized equipment in the department. Drs. Henton and Vansant will lead this effort and create a process through which 100% of first-year students will learn the Computerized Speech Lab, nasometer, audiometer, tympanometer, video otoscope, and ultrasound.

**Assessment Measures:** All first-year graduate students will complete the equipment training rotation.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONNECTION-----  
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RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

## **Goal 17 - Theme 3**

## **QEP**

**Number:** Goal 7

**Start:** 10/1/2023

**End:** 9/30/2024

**Goal:** Seniors in CSD will create artifacts for their job search/graduate application process.

### **Intended Outcome:**

Ninety percent of Level 3 students in each program will create at least 3 acceptable artifacts in their portfolio by earning a score of 80% or greater on the provided QEP Rubric.

The artifacts for CSD are as follows: Research and create an employment list, Create materials that showcase attributes, Research the graduate school application process

Baseline: Data for fall 22. Goal not met. Only 50% of students scored 80% or higher on this assessment. Of the 8 students who did not meet this competency, 5 of them failed to turn in one of the three assignments, making it impossible to reach the 80% threshold.

**Assessment Measures:** The QEP committee provided a standard rubric.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONNECTION-----

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RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**Goal 10 - Theme 2**