

COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2022

Vision Statement

The Communication Sciences and Disorders Program at the University of West Georgia will be recognized as a leading program in the preparation of undergraduate and graduate students through innovative teaching and research. We are catalysts, who provide the knowledge, skills, and tools to transform the lives of individuals across the life span who are at risk for or living with disabilities, their families and communities through our teaching, research, and community outreach. In addition, we align our vision with the College of Education which is to be recognized for *Leading a New World of Learning, with relevant and innovative programs that change lives and contribute to the betterment of society.*

Mission of the Communications Sciences and Disorders Program

The mission of the Communication Sciences and Disorders Program is to prepare speech-language pathology professionals to deliver and promote culturally competent, evidence based practice in a variety of clinical and educational settings. This is accomplished through the integration of traditional and innovative pedagogy, state-of-the-art technologies, and a focus in excellence across a wide spectrum of communication and swallowing disorders across the lifespan.

The aims of the Communication Sciences and Disorders Program are to:

1. Establish and promote a high quality interdisciplinary research program to enable all individuals attain functional communication skills across the lifespan;
2. Prepare undergraduate and graduate students to become consumers of research and practice at the “top of the license” (i.e., highest quality of professional standards);
3. Promote and sustain a commitment to diversity and inclusion among clients, staff, students, and faculty;
4. Promote and enhance community outreach.

Immediate Needs of the CSD Program to Induce Future Change

1. Restructure the plan of study to better align didactic and clinical experiences.
2. Maintain and expand diverse clinical placements.
3. Increase efforts to recruit culturally, linguistically, and geographically diverse students.
4. Establish a clinic to provide audiological services to students, faculty and staff, and extend services to the community.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Imperative #1: STUDENT SUCCESS --Student Progression

Goal 1: Enhance CSD enrollment, progression, and graduation

- Refine and streamline equitable processes for admission, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels;
 - Seek to attract strong candidates to UWG as evidenced by higher average GPA and GRE scores;
 - Attract a pool of applicants from geographically diverse locations during the graduate admissions process as evidenced by 2% incremental increases in applications from other states each year;
- Identify and reduce any obstacles to facilitate student progression and graduation;
 - Balance graduate course sequencing through a restructuring of the graduate plan of study by 2020;
 - Reduce external graduate clinical practicums from three to two.
- Make CSD programs engaging and relevant for students by allowing opportunities for all undergraduate and graduate students to participate in at least one high-impact experience (e.g., study abroad, immersive environments, conferences, research projects).
 - Support participation in high-impact experiences as evidenced by broadening the scope of opportunities offered by one a year;
 - Support participation in high-impact experiences as evidenced by at least 20% of students.

Strategic Imperative #2: ACADEMIC SUCCESS - Academic Programming and Faculty Support

Goal 2: Enhance Academic Programs

- Ensure compliance with governing and regulatory associations and bodies
 - Continued refinement of an internal “compliance and curriculum work group” within the CSD Program;
 - Continually examine technological support within the COE for faculty and students.

- Establish and maintain audiological services through the Comprehensive Community Clinic (CCC) and surrounding community.
- Expand use of innovative technology to support learning outcomes
 - Ongoing review of technology enhancements within the CCC and the classroom;
 - Frequent student referral to the newly established Innovations Lab in the College of Education;
 - Use of simulations for course instruction and clinical experiences.

Goal 3: Promote faculty productivity related to teaching, scholarly activity, and service

- Increase faculty participation in professional development opportunities at the Center for Teaching and Learning at least once per year;
- Increase faculty attendance at other conferences related to research and teaching to improve pedagogical practices for the benefit of the students;
- At least three faculty representatives will attend conferences each year and share the information amongst all CSD faculty.

Strategic Imperative #3: SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS – Professional Collaborations and Service

Goal 4: Retain and Enhance Community Partnerships

- Maintain and expand our presence in surrounding communities
 - Maintain community partnerships via UWG Newnan campus Communication Lab, Heard County Early Intervention, and the West Georgia Technical College (WGTC) Waco Campus Early Intervention to continue to offer opportunities to provide evaluation and treatment to underserved populations;
 - Maintain and solicit advisory board feedback to tailor the program to meet community needs on an annual basis 2018-2022.
- Enhance Comprehensive Community Clinic (CCC) services in the region
 - Continually review opportunities to provide services and clinician training in the region;
 - Establish and promote professional partnerships with local education agencies to enhance graduate education and increase community awareness and services for Communication Disorders;
 - Establish and strengthen mutually beneficial research partnerships with community agencies to promote prevention and remediation of communication disorders in the West Georgia area.
- Maintain and expand partnerships with medical placement sites to enhance student internship opportunities
 - Maintain current, and attain a minimum of two new medically based partnerships per year as evidenced by an active Memorandum of Understanding and a successful student placement through 2022.

Strategic Imperative #4: OPERATIONAL SUCCESS – Operational Effectiveness and Sustainability

Goal 5: Improve of efficiency of program operations

- Move CSD/CCC to a new scheduling model by 2020;
- Develop new clinical/class scheduling model to support student and faculty planning and alignment with a new plan of study.

Goal 6: Improve Communication and program operation

- Ensure timely documentation and dissemination of work group progress among CSD faculty;
- Maximize timely dissemination of program meeting agenda and minutes among CSD faculty;
- Enhance open communication and input sharing among CSD faculty regarding various aspects of the program.

Challenges for Attaining the Goals of Our Strategic Plan

To achieve the goals of our Strategic Plan, the following needs must be met:

- Continued recruitment and retention of academic faculty at the levels of assistant and associate/full who combine strong research and scholarship programs with a commitment to teaching excellence and student learning.
- Continued recruitment of additional full-time clinical faculty who combine strong clinical teaching skills with a commitment to collaborative research activities.
- Creation of distinctive and outstanding student learning experiences, including increased involvement in the world campus and online learning seminars, global experiences and expanding clinical opportunities through development of practical learning and research. While sustaining appropriate student-faculty ratios, initiatives that focus on key areas such as neurogenetics, autism spectrum disorders, multiculturalism, and aural rehabilitation in the professions will be a priority.
- Maintenance of national accreditation of the graduate program through successful renewal the Council for Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association, and ensure compliance with SACS COC and CAEP standards and program assessment as well as continual improvement processed in compliance with all relevant governing and regulatory associations and bodies.
- Professional gatekeeping to ensure continued rigor in selecting, admitting, and training high quality candidates for both academic and clinical areas while maintaining ASHA/CAA accreditation standards.
- Procurement of additional external funding to support research activities across priority areas and across campuses, including the UWG main campus, Newnan, and Haralson clinics.