

University of Arkansas

Communication Sciences and Disorders Program

Strategic Plan 2025-2030

Mission and Goals

Our mission is to impact the lives of those with communication disorders by providing innovative and meaningful education for the next generation of clinicians, generating influential research in our areas of expertise, and engaging the community at the intersection of research and clinical service. To accomplish this mission, faculty and students engage in scholarly research designed to impact services in the future, provide clinical services to the community informed by their areas of expertise, and promote community outreach projects.

Vision statement

We strive to make a difference in the lives of those with communication disorders through innovative education, impactful research, and meaningful community engagement for individuals with communication disorders in the state of Arkansas and beyond. Our program aims to disseminate high quality interdisciplinary basic and applied research toward addressing problems in communication sciences and disorders. We strive to promote evidence-based practices by educating students through the integration of academic coursework, diverse clinical practicum experiences, research opportunities, and service to the community.

Values

- We strive to meet our educational commitment by sharing what we know with the research and clinical community and by generating knowledge with students for patients, families, the general public, and collaborating colleagues.
- We strive to improve our community through collaboration, research efforts, and community engagement.
- We accept the challenge and responsibility to advance scientific understanding of communication sciences and disorders in collaboration with practicing clinicians in the community.
- We pledge to provide the highest quality of ethical clinical care to the people of Arkansas and to all others who entrust us with their care.

- We commit to foster a positive environment that protects free expression of thought and encourages honesty, openness, and integrity.
- We hold ourselves to the highest criteria of professional and scholarly ethics.
- We recognize that to accomplish our goals we must diligently work together as a team, support and encourage one another, and reward teaching others as we collaboratively share this responsibility.

Goals

Teaching and Clinical Education:

Long term goal: *Ensure excellence and growth in the CDIS program through teaching, mentorship, advising, and diverse learning opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. Increase student understanding of professional and ethical issues related to research, academia, and clinical practice by offering consistent training opportunities.*

Rationale: It is imperative that students graduating from the CDIS program are well prepared for professional opportunities upon graduation, with all undergraduate CDIS majors who apply for graduate school being accepted into a graduate program of their choice and all students who graduate with a master's degree finding employment in their setting of choice.

Objectives:

1. Ensure course curriculum and the program of study align with CFCC and CAA standards using effective, innovative, and engaging methods.
 - a. **Resources:** Faculty Time
 - b. **Responsible Person(s):** Program Faculty
 - c. **Projected Completion Date:** Reviewed and updated annually
 - d. **Expected Results:** Annual review and updates made to syllabi
2. Support and maintain a high level of outreach and engagement with community partners and alumni.
 - a. **Resources:** Faculty time
 - b. **Responsible Person(s):** Program Faculty
 - c. **Projected Completion Date:** May 2030
 - d. **Expected Results:** Identify ways to consistently communicate with program alumni and community partners on an annual basis
3. Develop innovative clinical training/research/service programs and secure funding to implement the programs.
 - a. **Resources:** Faculty Time
 - b. **Responsible Person(s):** Faculty Time
 - c. **Projected Completion Date:** May 2030

- d. **Expected Results:** Provide clinical training workshops and identify opportunities for interdisciplinary clinical research

Research and Outreach

Long-Term Goal: *Generate influential research in our areas of expertise.*

Rationale: To make a significant difference in the lives of individuals with communication disorders through our research efforts, it is crucial that our work advances our understanding of communication disorders, informs clinical practice, and supports community at large. Our aim is to impact those affected by communication disorders, their families, and the professionals who serve them, both within the state of Arkansas and beyond.

Objectives:

1. Provide support to increase internal and federal grant submissions, with the goal of enhancing long-term research objectives and recruiting student researchers.
 - a. **Resources:** Internal funding opportunities and program faculty time
 - b. **Responsible Person(s):** Program faculty
 - c. **Projected Completion Date:** May 2030
 - d. **Expected Results:** Research faculty will apply for or be involved in a 2 federally funded grants per year. Faculty will identify opportunities for graduate students to be involved in research annually.
2. Support and maintain faculty outreach and community engagement.
 - a. **Resources:** Faculty time
 - b. **Responsible Person(s):** Program Faculty
 - c. **Projected Completion Date:** May 2030
 - d. **Expected Results:** Faculty will identify opportunities to combine community outreach and research efforts to have an impact on the community locally and nationally.
3. Increase the value, dissemination, and knowledge translation of research by supporting faculty long-term goals, identifying opportunities for interprofessional collaboration, and enhancing national influence.
 - a. **Resources:** Faculty time
 - b. **Responsible Person(s):** Program Faculty
 - c. **Projected Completion Date:** May 2030
 - d. **Expected Results:** Research faculty will identify long-term goals, opportunities for interprofessional collaboration, and track evidence of research impact.

Person centered care

Long-Term Goal: *Promote belonging and person-centered care to align with guiding priorities University priorities and the values of communication for all.*

Rationale: To promote the values of belonging and person centered care, it is important that we recruit students from a variety of backgrounds, promote student and faculty awareness of cultural values, and provide students with a wide range of clinical experiences to support individualized, patient-centered care.

Objectives:

1. Strategically recruit students from a variety of backgrounds to enhance belonging
 - a. **Resources:** Faculty time
 - b. **Responsible Person(s):** Program faculty
 - c. **Projected Completion Date:** May 2030
 - d. **Expected Results:** Identify opportunities to recruit students from all backgrounds
2. Increase faculty and student awareness of cultural and linguistic competence.
 - a. **Resources:** Faculty time
 - b. **Responsible Person(s):** Program Faculty
 - c. **Projected Completion Date:** May 2030
 - d. **Expected Results:** Faculty will identify opportunities to increase awareness for cultural competence and practice cultural humility in academic and clinical settings
3. Provide students with a broad range of academic and clinical experiences to enhance patient-centered care.
 - a. **Resources:** Faculty time
 - b. **Responsible Person(s):** Program faculty
 - c. **Projected Completion Date:** May 2030
 - d. **Expected Results:** Faculty will review coursework and identify new opportunities for students to gain academic and clinical experiences with diverse populations