

CSD Mission and Strategic Plan 2019 – 2025

CSD Mission

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders provides high quality academic and clinical education to prepare undergraduate and graduate students for meaningful careers that impact the quality of life for individuals with communication differences and disorders.

Strategic Plan: Goals Relevant to All Programs in the Department

Provide high quality teaching that leads to students' academic and clinical success

- Implement successful teaching practices in the classroom, clinic, and research settings as well as in the community via service learning
 - **Update as of January 2023:** Two CSD faculty completed Reflective Teaching Certificates from the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching. One CSD faculty member completed an "Active Learning" professional development certificate from an NSF-funded initiative from the University of Michigan. One CSD faculty member was awarded a Course Design Grant from the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching.
 - **Update as of January 2022:** One CSD Faculty member completed a professional development certificate, Keeping Us [students] Engaged, from the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching.
 - **Update as of August 2021:** One CSD faculty member won the campus-wide Sigma Xi College Science Teacher of the Year Award in Spring 2021.
- Increase integration of courses throughout the program emphasizing the applied nature of course content
 - **Update as of January 2020:** In spring semester of junior year, CSD students typically take three courses: CSD 321 Phonological Disorders in Children, CSD 416: Assessment of Communication Disorders, and CSD 449: Clinical Practice in SLP. In prior years students commented that the course content among these three courses sometimes overlapped too much and at other times did not fully cover the topics they needed for future courses. Prior to the beginning of spring semester 2020, the three faculty members teaching these courses met to collaborate on the depth, breadth, and sequence of content to be covered in each course as well as using simulated case studies in each class. These faculty are continuing to meet throughout spring semester to ensure integration of the content across courses.
- Advance student learning of multicultural aspects of speech-language pathology and audiology through experiences with diverse populations
 - **Update as of August 2021:** Multiple staff members from the PFW Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion attended a summer graduate level clinical methods course. These staff members provided feedback to students on a class project related to diversity.

Provide high quality clinical services to the community

- Increase the visibility of the on-campus Communication Disorders Clinic and the number of clients served by the clinic
 - **Update as of January 2023:** Began a partnership with Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation which yielded opportunities for students to provide screenings to community members and inform community members about the clinic.
 - **Update as of August 2021:** Began a partnership with Early Childhood Alliance to provide free speech-language pathology services to children.

- **Update as of August 2020:** Began a partnership with GiGi's Playhouse to provide free speech-language pathology services to individuals with Down syndrome through GiGi's Playhouse's Amina Grace Speech and Language program.
- Create a center for excellence for AAC including a weeklong summer daycamp for individuals who use AAC
- Develop new ways to finance clinical operations
 - **Update as of January 2022:** The Communication Disorders Clinic received a grant from the M.E. Raker Foundation for the Summer 2022 Language and Literacy Camp.
 - **Update as of January 2020:** Over the past year, the AAC Poss-Abilities Theatre camp has received multiple donations from local philanthropic organizations to help fund one-time needs for the camp operations as well as materials such as backdrops that can be reused every year for the end of camp theatre production.

Faculty are engaged in meaningful research with student involvement

- Faculty and students routinely publish and present their scholarship at professional conferences
 - **Update as of January 2023:** During Fall 2022, one faculty member published a journal article, three faculty members published a total of four chapters in a book edited by two of the faculty. One faculty member presented at the Lilly Conference Traverse City, one presented at the Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions, two faculty and one student presented at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention, and one faculty member presented at the PFW Teaching Alliance Teaching Showcase.
 - **Update as of January 2022:** During Fall 2021, two CSD faculty mentored a total of four students who published research abstracts in the Journal of Purdue Undergraduate Research. One CSD faculty published a journal article.
 - **Update as of August 2021:** During Spring 2021, CSD faculty published one treatment book, one journal article, and presented two presentations at regional conferences (the Indiana Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention).
 - **Update as of January 2020:** During Fall 2019, CSD faculty published one treatment book, one journal article, one book chapter, and presented at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's annual convention and at the PFW Alliance Teaching Showcase. One of these presentations included a student co-author.
 - **Update as of August 2019:** During Spring and Summer 2019, CSD faculty published one journal article and presented at two national conferences (Symposium on Research on Child Language Disorders and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Connect Conference) and two regional conferences (the Indiana Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention and the Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention). Four students were co-authors on these presentations.
- Faculty share their research with each other on campus and engage students in learning about the research being conducted on campus
 - **Update as of August 2021:** Multiple CSD faculty attended the PFW Student Research and Creative Endeavor Symposium in March 2021. CSD undergraduate students who completed research projects presented and shared their research.

Create a circle of engagement among faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community members

- Create regular opportunities for alumni to interact with faculty, staff, and current students on campus
- Encourage and promote alumni who give back to their community and the profession
- Faculty lead ongoing service learning opportunities for students

- **Update as of August 2022:** In May 2022, one faculty member was awarded a College of Science START! Grant focused on teaching technology to older adults in the Fort Wayne area.
- **Update as of August 2021:** During Spring 2021 students members of the PFW NSSLHA Chapter volunteered at a community covid vaccination clinic. Student clinicians volunteered conducting hearing screenings at local schools.
- **Update as of January 2020:** During Spring, Summer, and Fall 2019, CSD faculty led students in participating in numerous service learning activities including AAC World, Deaf Deaf World, training of first responders in working with individuals who use AAC, and through the Disability Friendly Fort Wayne project trained local businesses in how to recognize and work with individuals with communication disorders.

Maintain state-of-the art clinical, teaching, and research space and other resources within the department

- Maintain space and equipment that ensures the safety of students, clients, faculty, and staff
 - **Update as of January 2023:** The department obtained a new research lab for faculty research.
 - **Update as of August 2021:** The department obtained one new research lab for faculty research.
 - **Update as of January 2021:** The department obtained space for a new, larger student clinical workroom. This room provides space for graduate and undergraduate student clinicians to work on clinic related documentation and planning. Access to the room is restricted via a keypad code to student clinicians, staff, and faculty.
- Create space that is welcoming and accessible to all individuals
 - **Update as of January 2020:** In Fall 2019 students returned to campus to double the amount of study space they had previously! The Donewald CSD Library was moved down the hall to MCC 103 and the old library space was converted to a dedicated clinical library. This allows all students to have access to study space in the department. The Donewald Library also got two new computers for student use as well as educationally related wall art to both decorate the space and be used as study tools.
- Maintain up-to-date technology in classrooms and the clinic
 - **Update as of January 2021:** Webcams with increased functionality were installed in classrooms to assist with synchronous virtual learning when students needed to be absent from in-person classes.
 - **Update as of January 2020:** In Fall 2019 the Communication Disorders Clinic began using an electronic health records system which provides students taking clinical practicum the experience working with the type of technology they will encounter in the workplace.

Strategic Plan: Goals Specifically Relevant to the Undergraduate Program

Provide high quality teaching that leads to students' academic and clinical success

- Develop an undergraduate program assessment that meaningfully measures students' learning
 - **Update as of August 2019:** At the end of spring 2019, the department used an open-ended case study about a hypothetical child client as part of the annual assessment of student learning. This assessment provided more in depth evaluation of student learning compare to the multiple choice assessment used in prior years.
- Maintain high graduate school acceptance rates for our undergraduate students
 - **Update as of January 2020:** One December 2019 graduate has already started graduate school in speech-language pathology at Eastern New Mexico University.
 - **Update as of August 2019:** Senior CSD students who graduated in the 2018-2019 academic year again had an extremely high acceptance to graduate school in speech-language pathology. Those students are now attending graduate schools throughout the region including Ball State University, Indiana University – Bloomington, Indiana State University, Bowling Green State University, University of Toledo, Nova Southeastern University, and St. Xavier University.

**Note that the department has a long history of success in having students admitted to graduate school in fields related to CSD. However, to decrease student anxiety regarding graduate school acceptance and to maintain a collaborative (rather than competitive) learning environment, the department declines to publically publish specific acceptance rates.*

Faculty are engaged in meaningful research with student involvement

- Increase opportunities for undergraduate honors students to complete a research project with faculty
 - **Update as of January 2023:** One graduating student earned an honors certificate in December 2022.
 - **Update as of August 2022:** In May 2022, one faculty member was awarded a College of Science START! Grant focused on teaching technology to older adults in the Fort Wayne area. One graduating student earned an honors certificate which included completing a research project.
 - **Update as of August 2019:** Four of our graduating students earned an honors certificate in May 2019.

Strategic Plan: Goals Specifically Relevant to the Graduate Program

Implement and maintain a successful graduate program in speech-language pathology

- Obtain candidacy status from the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
 - **Update as of January 2022:** The master's degree was approved by the Indiana Department of Education as being an educator preparation program in the area of Communication Disorder.
 - **Update as of January 2020:** The master's degree (M.S. in Speech-Language Pathology) education program in speech-language pathology at Purdue University Fort Wayne is an Applicant for Candidacy by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard, #310, Rockville, MD 20850, 800-498-2071 or 301-296- 5700.
- Once the graduate program begins, regularly update and modify the program as needed to ensure success
 - **Update as of January 2022:** The graduate program joined the Fort Wayne Area Interprofessional Education Consortium (FWAIEPEC). This membership provides our graduate students with multiple opportunities for interprofessional education each year with graduate

students from other local universities in the areas of: pharmacy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, physician assistant, and athletic training.

- ***Update as of August 2021:*** Modified the sequence of courses in the first two semesters of the program to provide students one course in childhood communication disorders during their first semester.
- Meet all accreditation standards for student outcomes including graduation rate, Praxis pass rate, and employment rate of 80% or higher
- Obtain initial accreditation from the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association