

**Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders**  
**Purdue University Fort Wayne**  
**Mission and Strategic Plan 2019 – 2025**

**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
  - **January 2025 Update:** Four CSD faculty attended seven teaching workshops from the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching. Three CSD faculty completed teaching certificates from the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching. Two CSD faculty had classroom observations and course reviews completed by CELT teaching fellows. Two CSD faculty participated in a university-wide panel on best practices in teaching and research. One CSD faculty participated in a faculty learning community on high impact practices in teaching. Two CSD faculty gave guest lectures. Two CSD faculty presented at the CELT Fall Teaching Conference. Several CSD faculty also attended this conference. Several CSD faculty attended the Alliance Teaching Showcase. One CSD faculty offered a short course on aging and dementia to university and community members through the Division of Continuing Studies.
  - **August 2024 Update:** One CSD faculty attended three teaching workshops from the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching. One CSD faculty completed two teaching certificates from the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching. One CSD faculty served as a mentor for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Summer Writing and Project Development Institute.
  - **January 2024 Update:** One CSD faculty attended six teaching workshops from the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching. One CSD faculty earned a CELT certificate in Dynamic Lecturing. Several CSD faculty attended the Alliance Teaching Showcase.
  - **August 2023 Update:** Seven CSD faculty participated in the Teaching Language Science conference sponsored by Vanderbilt University. Two CSD faculty participated in a faculty learning community on high impact practices in teaching. One CSD faculty gave a guest lecture at Indiana University. One CSD faculty participated in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Summer Writing and Project Development Institute. One CSD faculty served as an online course reviewer for the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching. One CSD faculty attended eight teaching workshops from the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching. One CSD faculty completed two teaching certificates from the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching. Several CSD faculty attended the CELT Fall Teaching Conference.
  - **January 2023 Update:** 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.

- **January 2022 Update:** One CSD Faculty member completed a professional development certificate, Keeping Us [students] Engaged, from the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching.
- **August 2021 Update:** 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
  - **January 2020 Update:** 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
  - **January 2025 Update:** A discussion about assessment and treatment of individuals who are deaf and hard-of-hearing was added to CSD 54900. A discussion about AAC and diversity was added to CSD 40500. A discussion on neurodiversity was included in CSD 52300. One CSD faculty attended a CAPCSD workshop on supporting faculty with historically excluded identities. One CSD faculty began mentoring an honor’s student research project on auditory processing in transgender populations.
  - **August 2024 Update:** Two CSD faculty gave a workshop on cross-linguistic perspectives on motor speech disorders as part of CSD 51300 in Spring 2024. One CSD faculty attended a cultural awareness training workshop. One CSD faculty attended a CAPCSD workshop on Student Diversity and Faculty Sufficiency in CSD Academic Programs.
  - **January 2024 Update:** One CSD faculty worked with NSSLHA to develop volunteer opportunities for undergraduate students at the Timothy L. Johnson Academy, which has a high minority student population.
  - **August 2021 Update:** Multiple staff members from the PFW Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion attended a summer graduate level clinical methods course (CSD 54300). 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
  - **January 2025 Update:** One faculty member produced a Podcast promoting our SPEAK OUT! therapy program for Parkinson’s disease. One CSD faculty offered a short course on aging and dementia to university and community members through the Division of Continuing Studies. Our department started a partnership with the Parkview Family YMCA where students provide cognitive, language and hearing screenings to community members and inform community

members about the clinic. We continued to provide free hearing screenings to schools in the Fort Wayne area.

- **January 2024 Update:** Expanded our partnership with GiGi's Playhouse to provide free speech-language services to individuals with Down syndrome and other developmental disabilities.
- **August 2023 Update:** Began providing SPEAK OUT! individual and group therapy for clients with Parkinson's disease. Began providing voice therapy for transgender clients. Began a partnership with the YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne where students provide cognitive, language and hearing screenings to community members and inform community members about the clinic.
- **January 2023 Update:** 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.
- **August 2021 Update:** Began a partnership with Early Childhood Alliance to provide free speech-language pathology services to children.
- **August 2020 Update:** 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 camp for individuals who use AAC
- Develop new ways to finance clinical operations
  - **January 2025 Update:** Some of the revenue generated by undergraduate courses will now be returned to the department to finance the clinic, and department materials and equipment.
  - **August 2024 Update:** The Communication Disorders Clinic received a SPEAK OUT! clinic grant to provide training and therapy materials to faculty and graduate students. Two CSD faculty attended a CAPCSD workshop on donation-based clinics to explore the feasibility of implementing this model in our clinic as a way to potentially generate revenue.
  - **January 2022 Update:** The Communication Disorders Clinic received a grant from the M.E. Raker Foundation for the Summer 2022 Language and Literacy Camp.
  - **January 2020 Update:** 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
  - **January 2025 Update:** During Fall 2024, one CSD faculty published a journal article. Two CSD faculty gave three presentations at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) annual convention. One CSD faculty gave a presentation at the Acoustical Society of America. One CSD faculty gave two presentations at two international conferences.
  - **August 2024 Update:** During Spring-Summer 2024, one CSD faculty published a journal article. One CSD faculty published a journal article and had an article and book chapter accepted for publication. One CSD faculty gave presentations at the Indiana Speech-Language-Hearing Association and Governor's State University. One CSD faculty gave three presentations at the 2024 World Congress of Stuttering and Cluttering. One CSD faculty gave a presentation at the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas. An undergraduate student published a research abstract. A graduate student also authored a newspaper article in the Journal-Gazette.

- **January 2024 Update:** During Fall 2023, one CSD faculty published a journal article. Three CSD faculty gave 10 presentations at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention. One CSD faculty gave a presentation at the 13th Oxford Disfluency Conference. One CSD faculty gave presentations at the 7th International Conference on Language and Education, and the PULiiMA Indigenous Language and Technology Conference. A graduate student also authored a newspaper article in the Journal-Gazette.
- **August 2023 Update:** During Spring-Summer 2023, one CSD faculty published two journal articles, gave a presentation at the Georgia Speech Language and Hearing Association and three presentations at the Indiana Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Another CSD faculty authored a newspaper article in the Journal-Gazette and gave a presentation at the Indiana Speech-Language-Hearing Association. A graduate student also authored a newspaper article in the Journal-Gazette.
- **January 2023 Update:** During Fall 2022, two CSD faculty published three journal articles, 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 Alliance Teaching Showcase.
- **January 2022 Update:** 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.
- **August 2021 Update:** 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).
- **January 2020 Update:** 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.
- **August 2019 Update:** 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
  - **August 2024 Update:** Multiple CSD faculty attended and served as judges at the PFW Student Research and Creative Endeavor Symposium in March 2024. CSD undergraduate students who completed research projects presented and shared their research.
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  - **August 2022 Update:** Multiple CSD faculty attended and served as judges at the PFW Student Research and Creative Endeavor Symposium in March 2022. CSD undergraduate students who completed research projects presented and shared their research.

- **August 2021 Update:** Multiple CSD faculty attended and served as judges at 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
  - **January 2025 Update:** One CSD faculty and their student became involved in the National Stuttering Association. One CSD faculty and student were invited to join the advisory board for a national “thriving with aphasia” group.
  - **August 2024 Update:** One CSD faculty was a guest speaker at a Parkinson’s Disease caregiver group. One CSD faculty and graduate students provided free hearing screenings at the PFW Well-Being Summit.
  - **January 2024 Update:** One CSD faculty worked with NSSLHA to develop volunteer opportunities for undergraduate students at the Timothy L. Johnson Academy. NSSLHA also received a community grant to support this work.
  - **August 2023 Update:** One CSD faculty and graduate students provided free hearing screenings at the PFW Well-Being Summit.
  - **January 2023 Update:** One CSD faculty gave presentations at two local stroke and brain injury support groups.
  - **August 2022 Update:** 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.
  - **August 2021 Update:** During Spring 2021 student members of the PFW NSSLHA Chapter volunteered at a community COVID vaccination clinic. Student clinicians volunteered conducting hearing screenings at local schools.
  - **January 2020 Update:** During Spring, Summer, and Fall 2019, CSD faculty led students in participating in numerous service-learning activities including AAC World, 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
  - **January 2025 Update:** The department explored the possibility of expanding clinic space in Kettler Hall which would be shared with the Center for Student Counseling. The department purchased a new portable audiometer. The department purchased several new assessments and therapy materials. One CSD faculty purchased AAC materials for CSD 40500.
  - **January 2023 Update:** The department obtained a new research lab for faculty research.
  - **August 2021 Update:** The department obtained one new research lab for faculty research.
  - **January 2021 Update:** 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

- **January 2024 Update:** In Fall 2023, the department obtained new outside signage for the clinic to increase visibility.
- **August 2023 Update:** In Summer 2023, the clinic materials room was relocated in the building to be closer to the graduate student workroom. For added security, the graduate student workroom and the clinic materials rooms were changed to keypad entry.
- **January 2020 Update:** 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
  - **August 2023 Update:** In Summer 2023, we began using CALIPSO to track student clock hours and maintain information related to accreditation.
  - **January 2023 Update:** In Fall 2022, we began using one of the high-tech classrooms on campus for some of our graduate courses.
  - **January 2021 Update:** Webcams with increased functionality were installed in classrooms to assist with synchronous virtual learning when students needed to be absent from in-person classes.
  - **January 2020 Update:** 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 Specific 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
  - **January 2025 Update:** In Fall 2024, more preliminary data was collected and the assessment report was submitted to the College of Science in December 2024.
  - **August 2024 Update:** In Spring 2024, the assessment plan was further refined and preliminary data collection was initiated.
  - **January 2024 Update:** In Fall 2023, a comprehensive assessment plan was developed. The plan was reviewed by the College of Science Educational Policy Committee and an action plan was developed based on this review.
  - **August 2019 Update:** 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
  - **August 2024 Update:** Students who graduated in the 2023-24 academic year had a high acceptance rate to graduate school in speech-language pathology. Those students are now attending graduate programs at Purdue University Fort Wayne and Indiana University South Bend.
  - **August 2023 Update:** Students who graduated in the 2022-23 academic year had a high acceptance rate to graduate school in speech-language pathology and audiology. Those students are now attending graduate programs at Maryville University, Purdue University Fort Wayne, Purdue University West Lafayette, St. Mary's College, and University of Wisconsin-Madison.
  - **August 2022 Update:** Students who graduated in the 2021-22 academic year had a high acceptance rate to graduate school in speech-language pathology and audiology. Those students are now attending graduate programs at Ball State University, Central Michigan University, Indiana State University, Purdue University Fort Wayne, Purdue University West Lafayette, University of Florida, and Western Michigan University.
  - **August 2021 Update:** Students who graduated in the 2020-21 academic year had a high acceptance rate to graduate school in speech-language pathology. Those students are now attending graduate programs at Purdue University Fort Wayne and Purdue University West Lafayette.
  - **August 2020 Update:** Students who graduated in the 2019-2020 academic year had a high acceptance rate to graduate school in speech-language pathology. Those students are now attending graduate programs including Purdue University Fort Wayne.
  - **January 2020 Update:** One December 2019 graduate has started graduate school in speech-language pathology at Eastern New Mexico University.
  - **August 2019 Update:** 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 publicly 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
  - **January 2025 Update:** Three CSD faculty are mentoring a total of five honors students and one CSD faculty is also mentoring a Chapman Scholar.
  - **August 2024 Update:** One CSD faculty is currently mentoring two honors students and another CSD faculty is mentoring a Chapman Scholar who is also completing honors.
  - **August 2023 Update:** One graduating student earned an honors certificate in May 2023.
  - **January 2023 Update:** One graduating student earned an honors certificate in December 2022.
  - **August 2022 Update:** 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.
  - **August 2019 Update:** Four of our graduating students earned an honors certificate in May 2019.

#### **Strategic Plan: Goals Specific 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
  - **January 2022 Update:** The master's degree was approved by the Indiana Department of Education as being an educator preparation program in the area of Communication Disorder.
  - **August 2020 Update:** The Master of Science (M.S.) education program in speech-language pathology at Purdue Fort Wayne is a Candidate for Accreditation 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. Candidacy is a "preaccreditation" status with the CAA, awarded to developing or emerging programs for a maximum period of five years.
  - **January 2020 Update:** 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
  - **January 2024 Update:** In place of the comprehensive exam, a new program-level portfolio requirement was introduced.
  - **January 2023 Update:** The program-level comprehensive exam requirement was removed. To waive this examination process, we received approval to use the Alternative Graduation Criteria option for a non-thesis, coursework only, master's degree. The approved criteria are that students must receive a B- or higher in CSD 51400 and CSD 51500.
  - **August 2022 Update:** Returned to the original sequence of courses in the first two semesters of the program.
  - **January 2022 Update:** The graduate program joined the Fort Wayne Area Interprofessional Education Consortium (FWAIPEC). This membership provides our graduate students with



multiple opportunities for interprofessional education each year with graduate students from other local universities in: pharmacy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, physician assistant, and athletic training.

- **August 2021 Update:** 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 on-time graduation rate and Praxis pass rate of 80% or higher
  - **August 2024 Update:** Our program met the 80% threshold for on-time graduation and Praxis pass rates.
  - **August 2023 Update:** Our program met the 80% threshold for on-time graduation and Praxis pass rates.
  - **August 2022 Update:** Our program met the 80% threshold for on-time graduation and Praxis pass rates.
- Obtain initial accreditation from the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
  - **January 2025 Update:** Planning is underway for our site visit in March 2025.
  - **August 2024 Update:** Our application for initial accreditation from the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association was submitted.