

Purdue University Fort Wayne Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

2026-2030 STRATEGIC PLAN

1/16/2026

Vision and Mission

We are committed to becoming a regional leader in the field of communication sciences and disorders, recognized for developing skilled, compassionate professionals who enhance the communication and quality of life of individuals in Northeast Indiana.

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders prepares undergraduate and graduate students for meaningful careers through personalized, hands-on education and high-quality clinical experiences. Rooted in a learning- and practice-centered approach, we combine academic rigor with real-world application to prepare students for professional practice in the areas of communication and swallowing across the lifespan. Through community engagement, ethical practice, and a strong foundation in evidence-based care, we aim to positively impact both our region and the profession.

Strategic Goals

1. Promote a culture of communication, connection, transparency, and well-being
2. Engage in ongoing assessment of academic and clinical curriculum
3. Increase opportunities for funding and sustainability
4. Prioritize student excellence in recruitment and retention
5. Pursue opportunities for program growth and development

Goal 1: Promote a culture of communication, connection, transparency, and well-being

1. Develop intentional methods for improving and increasing student and faculty engagement.
2. Expand communication and transparency of expectations related to workload, communication, and department service.
3. Increase communication and engagement between student organizations and all faculty.
4. Increase faculty, staff and student recognition and awards, and celebrate successes.
5. Develop and implement an annual well-being survey of faculty, staff and students to assess stress levels, satisfaction, and areas for improvement.
6. Develop succession plans for all department administrative, committee and other service positions.

Goal 2: Engage in ongoing assessment of academic and clinical curriculum

1. Evaluate the graduate program curriculum to improve quality of education.
2. Assess on-campus clinical opportunities and off-campus externship coordination to facilitate increased access to varied opportunities.
3. Align the undergraduate and graduate curriculum to expand continuity and growth opportunities.
4. Evaluate the undergraduate program curriculum to optimize the number of students successfully moving into careers and entering graduate programs.

Goal 3: Increase opportunities for funding and sustainability

1. Increase the number of grants to support research and clinical programs in the department.
2. Connect with ongoing college, state, and community initiatives to support students.
3. Leverage state and national shortages for funding opportunities (e.g., Questa Education Foundation).
4. Investigate interest in department and program-specific fundraising and events, and create an intentional development plan.
5. Increase visibility and advocacy for the profession.
6. Secure funding for graduate students (e.g., scholarships, graduate assistantships).

Goal 4: Prioritize student excellence in recruitment and retention

1. Examine advantages and disadvantages of our admissions process to increase our applications and acceptance of admissions offers by high-caliber students.
2. Develop targeted recruitment and marketing strategies to attract high-caliber students.
3. Increase the number of initial acceptances to our graduate program.
4. Determine new ways to recruit a broader demographic of students to all programs.
5. Nominate students for campus and professional awards and scholarships.
6. Engage area high school and middle school students in learning about the profession of speech-language pathology to increase recruitment into our undergraduate program.

Goal 5: Pursue opportunities for program growth and development

1. Grow interprofessional partnerships to increase funding, clinical placements, and research.
2. Develop programs and opportunities (e.g., professional certificates, minor, pre-professional programs) to support the needs of students, alumni, and community providers.
3. Enhance the program's branding and community presence to attract clients to the on-campus clinic, engage potential students, and secure fundraising support.
4. Explore the possibility of developing a NSSLHA graduate student organization.