

Strategic Plan

The long-term goals (5-8 years) for the program in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) were most recently updated in 2022. The CSD faculty believes that attention to these items will allow the program to continue to address the educational needs of students, meet the expanding scope of practice for the profession of speech-language pathology, enhance research opportunities, and continue to address the clinical needs of clients. In addition, each one of these areas complements the mission statements for the CSD program, Department of Applied Human Sciences, the College of Health & Human Sciences, and Kansas State University, all of which emphasize excellence in teaching, research, and service.

Goals

1. Curriculum: The CSD faculty will focus on ensuring that all areas within the scope of practice are addressed (including evidence-based practice), and that certification and accreditation standards are met over the long term.

Outcome:

- The CSD undergraduate and graduate curricula will be assessed each year at the faculty retreat, incorporating feedback from externship supervisors and survey responses from graduates.
- Establish CSD CATTAILS (Critical Analysis Through the Teaching and Application of Information Literacy Skills) as an evidence-based practice (EBP) instruction program in collaboration with university STEM librarians to further integrate information literacy and critical thinking within CSD course content.

2. Technology: In order to address needs for teaching, research, and clinical services, the program will continually update existing technology and acquire new technology reflective of scope of practice changes in speech-language pathology.

Outcome:

- The program will annually contribute to a dedicated technology account via its clinic fee account and develop external sources through contributions to the program.
- Technology needs will be assessed throughout the year. Funds will be used to continually update current technology and acquire new technology at the K-State Speech and Hearing Center.

3. Clinical Services/Experiences: A primary responsibility of the program director and clinic director is to ensure that the CSD students are provided an appropriate breadth of clinical experiences to meet certification standards.

Outcome:

- Program administrators will monitor clinical experiences each semester when the student hours and clinical skill assessment data are entered into the computer software tracking programs.
- The clinic director will continue to search for and identify new off-campus clinical sites, as well as facilitate up-to-date contractual relationships with current sites.

4. Instruction Methods: The program in CSD is committed to using new technologies and exploring alternative methods to further enhance the delivery of academic courses, clinical services and/or professional instruction at a distance.

Outcome:

- The program will support faculty efforts for development of online course offerings, non-credit courses for continuing education, and/or the use of telepractice for clinical services.

5. Professional Development for Students: The program values the importance of the professional development of students to their future practice in speech-language pathology or audiology.

Outcome:

- The program will participate in university initiatives promoting undergraduate research and/or international travel experiences for majors.
- CSD faculty will provide leadership roles for program outreach activities such as client support groups, which include student participation.

6. Faculty Positions: As of 2016 the program in CSD consists of five Ph.D. level faculty members in speech-language pathology, one Au.D. faculty member in audiology, and three M.S. level faculty members in speech-language pathology.

Outcome:

- The program will maintain excellence through secure funding of 9 full-time faculty positions. Currently, there is one unfilled Ph.D. position in speech-language pathology. In 2017-2018, the goal is to fill that position.
- Acquire additional funding to support the development of a clinical doctorate degree in speech-language pathology.

7. Expansion of Degree Offerings: The CSD faculty believes that the profession of speech-language pathology has demonstrated an emerging trend toward the inclusion of a clinical doctorate degree in order to meet current and future knowledge and skill requirements. Potential aspects of the degree development will include an interdisciplinary focus for didactic and clinical instruction with opportunities for applied research.

Outcome:

- The CSD Program will explore potential interdisciplinary course offerings and interest in the development of a program of study with other units in the Department of Applied Human Sciences in the College of Health & Human Sciences (e.g., family science, gerontology, nutrition).
- The CSD Program will determine the necessary resources to implement a degree offering of a clinical doctorate degree in speech-language pathology.