

**Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders Vision**

Our vision is to improve the lives of individuals with communication and swallowing disorders through excellence in research, student instruction, and service to the community.

**Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders Mission Statement**

The mission of the department of the Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) is to prepare ethical, research-conscious, and culturally responsive speech-language pathologists committed to assessing, preventing and treating communication disorders in diverse populations across the lifespan.

**Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders****Three – year Strategic Plan, 2023-2025**Strategic Priority #1: Research

- A. Graduate students will participate in research projects, collaborate with faculty, and present findings at relevant conferences, bridging the gap between research and clinical practice.
- B. Faculty and students will participate in research with diverse populations.
- C. CSD will establish databases of potential research participants.
- D. Create opportunities for undergraduate students to participate in CSD research projects.
- E. Integrate and support research efforts that are inter-professional in education and in practice.

II. Strategic Priority #2: Academic Instruction

- A. Faculty (clinical and academic) and students engage in activities related to the scholarship of teaching and learning for the diverse CSD student population.
- B. Didactic/academic courses will explicitly include DEI learning outcomes, readings, lectures, and assignments.
- C. Faculty will use instructional technology (as it evolves) in order to enhance student access to learning.
- D. Coursework will focus on Deaf and Hard of Hearing populations by emphasizing diverse Deaf culture, perspectives, experiences, and communication preferences and strategies, including sign language and bilingual communication.



III. Strategic Priority #3: Clinical Education and Service to the Community

- A. Enhance students' classroom and clinical learning with required volunteer service to local community organizations, including those that serve diverse populations with communication disorders.
- B. Develop and integrate a DEI curriculum module into clinical education courses, addressing cultural competence, bias awareness, and sensitivity in clinical practice.
- C. Integrate ethical decision-making frameworks into clinical education, focusing on client autonomy, confidentiality, and professional boundaries. Case-based learning will assist students to critically analyze and resolve ethical challenges.
- D. Develop community engagement through partnerships that offer free or reduced-cost clinical services to underserved populations, collaborating with local organizations and clinics.
- E. Measure and assess student clinical competencies related to DEI, ethical practice, evidence-based clinical skills, community engagement, and specialized knowledge in deaf and hard of hearing populations.