



STRATEGIC PLAN 2024 - 2029

**COLLEGE OF
HEALTH SCIENCES**

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION
SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Here in CSCD we are committed to educating and mentoring students, trainees, clinicians, and researchers to advance the science and clinical care of communication disorders in diverse communities with the aim of filling the great need to specialists in these areas in Delaware and beyond. We also are committed to transforming science, learning, and practice in the field of communication sciences and disorders through partnerships, innovative research, and responsive education and care; to foster well-being, enhance quality of life, and reduce health disparities.

CSCD offers four pathways to an advanced degree in an inclusive and nurturing atmosphere. Specifically, CSCD has two pathways to achieve a Master's degree in Speech-Language pathology – one for people who have not completed prerequisite coursework in communication sciences and disorders and one for people who have completed this coursework. We also offer two pathways to a PhD – one in CSCD and the other collaboratively with the Interdisciplinary neuroscience graduate program. In all of our programs we encourage our students to engage in active, hands-on, interdisciplinary, and rich learning experiences that enhance and support their classroom and clinical experiences. Upon graduation our students are able to reach their career goals and become leaders within their field.

We also host a state-of-the art clinic where innovation and research support clinical practice which is equitable, excellent, cutting-edge, person-centered and aims to improve quality of life for individuals with communication differences/disorders and their communities. We are committed to growing our clinic and clinical training to serve the needs of Delawareans.

If you would like any additional information please reach out to me directly at aseidl@udel.edu. I am always happy to discuss our programs and the field of communication sciences and disorders. In the meantime, I invite you to explore our website to learn more about our exciting research, clinical work, and efforts to prepare and support the next generation of scientists and clinicians to treat patients in our ever-changing world.

Sincerely,
Amanda Seidl, Ph.D.



ABOUT US

Housed within the College of Health Sciences, the Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders (CSCD) is located in the Health Sciences Complex on the STAR Campus at the University of Delaware. The Communication Sciences & Disorders Department strives to educate the next generation of clinicians and researchers engaged in the management of individuals with communication disorders, to advance our understanding of the nature and management of communication disorders, and to provide high-quality services to individuals with communication disorders. We are a premier innovative center that addresses communication sciences and disorders through multidisciplinary approaches to education, research, and service.

VISION

To foster well-being, enhance quality of life, and reduce health disparities through our leadership in transformative science, learning, and practice in the field of communication sciences and disorders.

MISSION

The **CSCD Tripartite** Mission integrates Research, Teaching, and Engagement to serve both the vision of CSCD and the land grant mission of the university of serving the needs of Delawareans.

RESEARCH MISSION



- *To transform basic, translational, and clinical research in language, cognitive, speech, and swallowing processes, disorders, and delays using methods that embrace a holistic approach to prevention, diagnosis, and treatment strategies*
- *To conduct innovative, collaborative, and community-oriented research that intentionally focuses on equity and includes traditionally excluded groups*

GOAL 1 **Increase infrastructural support for human research** to continue to grow our already successful track record in garnering extramural support through:

1. Partnering with extant registries such as Language Research Registry, Cognitive Aging Registry, and Stroke Research Registry
2. Building teams to support hiring of community representatives to aid in ethical recruitment and community support to underrepresented communities

GOAL 2 Increase and incentivize **networks of researchers** within the unit, across the university, and country to encourage research innovation through:

1. Hiring three strong faculty who focus on one of our key areas of planned growth in areas such as voice, dysphagia, and bilingualism
2. Building a portfolio of large collaborative grants (such as a P50, T32, IGERT, or OSEP grant) that involve collaborations between clinic and research and support clinical research partnerships across the university and within the unit
3. Hiring staff to improve communication, build cohesion, and support our growing reputation via a monthly newsletter to release to clinic patients, alumni, stakeholders, and industry partners

GOAL 3 Increase **external recognition of research preeminence** through:

1. Increasing the number of faculty and Clinical Educators applying for and receiving external and internal research awards
2. Broadening the portfolio of research awards that faculty and Clinical Educators are applying for and receiving
3. Building industry partnerships with faculty and Clinical Educators in the unit

TEACHING MISSION



- *To educate and mentor students, trainees, clinicians, and researchers to advance the science and clinical care of language, speech, cognitive, and swallowing disorders in diverse communities.*
- *To prepare MA students in Speech-Language Pathology who:*
 - *Base their decision-making on internal and external evidence, clients' values and beliefs, ethical standards, and the context of care in clinical settings,*
 - *Use a person-centered approach in their clinical care of and advocacy for individuals with language, cognitive, speech, and swallowing disorders across the lifespan*

GOAL 1 **Redesign the MA-SLP curriculum to better cover KASA standards in the classroom through:**

1. **Devoting more class hours to skill development**
2. **Creating more summer intensives** in the clinic that can support student training goals and dovetail better with curricular needs (e.g., assessment, AAC, adult fluency)

GOAL 2 **Pursue grant support to increase our ability to train our MA-SLPs and students in the CHS to conduct hearing screenings in the community to support the land grant mission of the university and serve this area of need for Delawareans.**

- GOAL 3** Create a **bilingualism-multiculturalism certificate program** for MA-SLP students, undergraduate students, and SLPs in the community and could involve a study abroad component
- GOAL 4** **Grow traditional and extended track MA-SLP program** enrollment to reach a total class size of 35 by 2027
- GOAL 5** Build more opportunities for student engagement through the **creation of service-learning courses** to be taken by undergraduates and MA-SLP students
- To prepare PhD research trainees who:
 - Possess the breadth and depth of knowledge necessary to become independent scholars, educators, and leaders for the future.
 - Have the training required to build partnerships, innovate within the field, embrace principled decision making, utilize rigorous research methods, and uphold ethical standards
- GOAL 6** **Redesign the PhD program** through:
1. A curricular overhaul that aligns our curriculum with our goals following a review of aspirational programs and ongoing research on how best to train PhDs
 2. Creation of new and varied funding streams for PhD students including submission of a T32, but beginning with P50, collaborating with other units on campus for reliable access to TA/ GA lines
 3. Revamping the PhD admission process in order to...
 - To prepare continuing education for practicing clinicians that will provide them with:
 - Cutting-edge knowledge and experience that will enhance their capacity to provide high-quality services to individuals with communication disorders.
- GOAL 7** **Increase the number and scope of CEU** (continuing education) events and create a revenue stream from such events through:
1. Producing a survey to be sent out to see areas of need for CEUs for topic, type of event, and frequency and then using topics to fill need and charging for CEUs for those unaffiliated with UD
 2. Creating a counseling/hearing screening certificate program or CEU series with associated fees

ENGAGEMENT MISSION



- *To provide evidence-based, equitable, excellent, cutting-edge, person-centered clinical care in order to improve quality of life for individuals with communication differences/disorders and their communities;*
- *To engage, educate, and advocate for underserved communities regarding communication differences/disorders, and scientific advances in the field, and*
- *To create, support, and advocate for communities of research, education, and care*

GOAL 1 Show continued growth in clinical services provided to the community and training of SLPs to generate **2 fulltime clinical positions and 2 Clinical Fellows** in the clinic

GOAL 2 Increase efforts to share and **disseminate research and clinical work** with the community both within the university and outside of the university through:

1. A monthly newsletter
2. A biannual chips and science hour
3. Events with community partners that prioritize how we can give back to the community
4. Sending students, Clinical Educators, and faculty to conferences
5. Regular social media postings





UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE
HEALTH SCIENCES

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