MISSION

The mission of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Iowa is to generate, disseminate, and apply knowledge of normal and impaired processes of human communication. We accomplish this mission by conducting research, educating undergraduate and graduate students, and providing clinical services to children and adults with impairments in speech, voice, language and/or hearing.

VISION

Our vision is to be recognized as the premiere educational institution for advancing basic and applied knowledge of all aspects communication sciences and disorders, from the laboratory bench to the clinic therapy room. To this end, the department conducts a number of distinct educational programs, each with specific goals:

Bachelor of Arts: The goal of the undergraduate program is to prepare students to engage successfully in graduate or professional study in speech and hearing or other fields.

Master of Arts, Speech Pathology (MA): The goal of the MA program is to graduate professionals who have the strong theoretical foundation and advanced clinical skills required for the delivery of excellent clinical services in speech-language pathology. The curriculum is designed to assure that graduates will meet both national ASHA accreditation standards and Iowa Licensure requirements.

Doctor of Audiology (AuD): The goal of the AuD program is to offer a rigorous post-baccalaureate course of study that prepares professionals who have both strong theoretical training and advanced clinical skills required to function at a high level in all areas of audiology. The curriculum is designed to assure that graduates meet both national ASHA accreditation standards and Iowa Licensure requirements.

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD): The goal of the PhD program is to prepare graduate students for positions of leadership in teaching and research. This is accomplished through an individualized program focused on research experience but including coursework in basic science and clinical issues related to speech, hearing and language.

CORE VALUES

- We strive to meet our educational commitment by sharing our collective knowledge and understanding with students, our patients, their families, the general public, and collaborating colleagues in clinical practice and academia. (this is a goal, not a value)
- We accept the challenge and responsibility to advance scientific knowledge of communication sciences and disorders through collaborative basic and clinical research.
- We pledge to provide the highest quality of ethical clinical care to the people of Iowa and to all others who entrust us with their care.
- We commit to foster a culture that protects free expression of thought and encourages diversity, honesty, openness, accountability, and integrity.
- We hold ourselves to the highest criteria of professional and scholarly ethics.
- We pledge to diligently work together as a team, support, respect, and encourage one another.
STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: OFFER A RICH UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION IN THE SPEECH AND HEARING SCIENCES (aligned with CLAS 2016-2021 Strategic Plan Goal 2)

Rationale: It is imperative that students graduating with an undergraduate degree in the speech and hearing sciences major are well prepared for graduate studies and positioned to be attractive to the graduate MA or AuD program of their choice. The best case outcome is that all undergraduate CSD majors are accepted to a graduate program in speech-language pathology or audiology.

Objectives

1. Evaluate the success of students pursuing pre-professional training and use results of regular undergraduate assessments to improve performance
2. Ensure a high level of teaching quality at the undergraduate level
3. Support a curriculum that reflects currency of content and effectiveness of content delivery by faculty
4. Evaluate departmental Honors program and consider changes to enhance the effectiveness of the program
5. Maintain state of the art teaching facilities in WJSHC, including computer labs and regular classrooms
6. Insure that the vast majority of our undergraduate courses are taught by full-time PhD faculty
7. Increase opportunities for undergraduate research experiences
8. Increase opportunities for undergraduate student involvement in the clinic
9. Ensure high quality of TA assistance for classes
10. Recruit and support a diverse student body through:
   a. Development and offering of gen ed courses that include information about the field
   b. Development of first year seminar courses that include information about the field
   c. Outreach to minority/underrepresented students enrolled in Intro courses
   d. Development of support system for minority and underrepresented undergraduate majors

GOAL 2: OFFER A RICH GRADUATE EDUCATION (aligned with CLAS 2016-2021 Strategic Plan Goal 2)

Rationale: Development of the next generation of leaders in the clinic, classroom, research laboratory and industry is the purpose of our graduate program. The success/ranking of our program is tied to the success of our graduates. A rich and robust graduate program will attract the top students in the country, enhance the scholarly productivity of our faculty, and benefit the profession through the efforts of graduates who will build on the strong foundational knowledge obtained in our program.

Objectives

General

1. Maintain a core MA and AuD curriculum that is current and consistent with national ASHA certification standards
2. Increase active learning experiences throughout the curriculum, including the creative use of technology
3. Enhance graduate student teaching skills through workshops and performance evaluations
4. Increase endowments for student aid to allow students with the best credentials to attend the UI
MA SLP program
1. Develop stable seminar offerings to allow for more long-term planning
2. Develop new options for didactic coursework in the area of autism
3. Develop new options for didactic coursework and clinical experience in the area of literacy
4. Integrate IPE/IPP training into the graduate curriculum

AuD Program
1. Optimize diversity, quality, and quantity of outplacement opportunities
2. Develop and implement a plan for regular course offerings that results in adequate enrollments but also provide a logical sequence for students in the program
3. Integrate IPE/IPP training into the graduate curriculum

PhD Program
1. Maintain active laboratories that provide research opportunities for students
2. Increase applications to the PhD program
3. Increase course offerings

GOAL 3: SUPPORT AND ADVANCE RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP, AND PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTIVITY
(aligned with CLAS 2016-2021 Strategic Plan Goal 1 and Goal 3)

Rationale: Provision of an excellent education experience for our students, in the classroom, the clinic, and the laboratory, demands that we maintain a high quality faculty who are leaders in their area of expertise. Our faculty should be expected to be creative and to innovate within their expertise area in the classroom, the clinic, and/or the laboratory, and be leaders in the profession.

Objectives
1. Develop innovative clinical training/research/service programs and secure funding to implement the programs
2. Increase faculty beyond currently vacant lines to provide instruction in areas not currently covered
3. Provide stable funding for clinical faculty and supervisors teaching in the clinical programs
4. Maintain and optimize laboratory and clinical teaching space available to faculty
5. Define Professional Productivity in the Clinical Faculty Track
6. Support and maintain a robust faculty-wide program of externally funded research
7. Support and maintain a high level of scholarship and professional productivity by all faculty
8. Support and maintain a high level of outreach, community engagement, and continuing education by faculty

GOAL 4: ENHANCE DIVERSITY IN THE PROGRAM (aligned with CLAS 2016-2021 Strategic Plan Goal 4)

Rationale: We subscribe to the same affirmations regarding diversity and inclusion as our governing body, ASHA .... “We affirm the value of diversity and the importance of inclusion, and are committed to ongoing dialogue across cultural lines as a strategy for excellence in serving our members (students), for addressing the needs of an increasingly diverse society, and as a mechanism for equipping” our graduates “to appropriately meet the needs of their clients, patients, and (future) students.”

Objectives
1. Increase number of males in undergraduate and graduate programs
2. Increase under-represented minorities in program, including post-doctoral fellows and faculty