

**MISSION STATEMENT AND
LONG TERM STRATEGIC PLAN**

2021-2026

Revised January 2022

Mission Statement

Communication Disorders is a comprehensive accredited program committed to excellence in the academic, technological and clinical education of future speech-language pathologists who will serve the communication and swallowing needs of a multicultural society. Evidenced-based teaching and supervised clinical experiences, utilizing advanced technology in the diagnosis and treatment of speech, language, voice, swallowing, and hearing disorders, foster excellence in the professional preparation of speech-language pathologists.

Long Term Strategic Plan

The Program of Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Central Missouri prides itself on its commitment to excellence by continually developing, reviewing, monitoring, assessing, and improving the academic and clinical components of the Speech-Language Pathology program. Through an ongoing process, faculty and staff within the Speech-Language Pathology program have established the following set of long-term strategic planning goals and objectives as specified in Standard 1.3 of the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) Standards for Accreditation of Graduate Education Programs in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. Components of the current plan have been developed to provide the Speech-Language Pathology program with a focus that is in congruence with the University's stated mission and values, the Harmon College of Business and Professional Studies, the School of Human Services, and the academic and clinical training goals of the Program and are intended to reflect the role of the Speech-Language Pathology program within the community. Ongoing review, development, assessment, and revision of the long-term strategic plan will take place regularly.

Goal 1 – To maintain and develop processes that foster continuous program improvement.

Strategic Plan Action Items (2021-2022):

#2 – The program will continuously analyze assess assessment survey information for adopting potential changes to the Program

#3: The program will complete preparation plans and participate in the site visit in the spring of 2022.

#7: CD 5820: Offsite Clinical Experience will be evaluated after two years to consider any adjustments to the course.

Measurable Objectives:

1. Increase enrollment and academic excellence to ensure program sustainability.
2. Develop a recruitment strategy and marketing campaign with Graduate Admissions to attract a highly qualified, diverse pool of graduate students.
3. Ensure the student application and selection process is equitable and holistic in nature through use of a modified rubric that considers a range of student characteristics.
4. Develop strategies to recruit highly qualified undergraduate students.

Goal 2- To develop new programs and initiatives for enhancing competitiveness.

Strategic Plan Action Items (2021-2022):

#1: The faculty of the Communication Disorders Program will monitor the status of progress in the acquisition of funding for the renovation of the Welch-Schmidt Center for Communication Disorders and participate in the process as appropriate.

#6: To successfully complete a search for an instructional faculty member with experience in speech-language pathology.

Measurable Objectives:

1. Continue to develop innovative clinic programs with a community focus of the Parkinson's Voice and Swallowing Clinic and the WORD Lab (Literacy clinic), and increase the community's awareness of these specialty clinics.

2. Explore a bridge program for individuals with an undergraduate degree other than Speech Language Pathology to facilitate a leveling avenue for SLP-Assistant qualifications.

Goal 3- To promote an enhanced awareness and practice of social justice.

Strategic Plan Action Items (2021-2022):

#8: The Center will promote inclusivity and diversity.

Measurable Objectives:

1. Focus on service learning for persons with communication disorders.
2. Support knowledge of issues related to social and cultural linguistic diversity.
3. Increase opportunities and awareness for integration of persons with disability in the community.
4. Increase social support groups for persons with communication needs.
 - a. Transvoice Support Group
 - b. Parkinson's Loud Crowd
 - c. Aphasia Support Group
 - d. Hearing Loss Support Group.

Goal 4 – To further develop school and community partnerships for the purpose of providing outstanding professional education while serving the community.

Strategic Plan Action Items (2021-2022):

#4: The program will establish specialty clinics immediately feasible within the Welch-Schmidt Center for Communication Disorders.

Measurable Objectives:

1. Continue to develop partnerships in the community and obtain new agreements which offer diverse clinical experiences across the lifespan.

- a. Parents as Teachers
 - b. Saturday Stories and Slices
 - c. Conversation Partners
2. Explore further opportunities to work with culturally and linguistically diverse clients.
 3. Increase opportunities to work with clients across a broad range of disorders through increased referral relationships with the community providers.

Goal 5- To enhance leadership development and the capacity to effect positive school change.

Strategic Plan Action Items (2021-2022):

Specific goal not targeted for this goal for the 2021-2022 school year.

Measurable Objectives:

1. Provide opportunities for student leadership experiences through the student organization UCM NSSHLA, National NSSLHA, and through the state level association MSHA.
2. Promote student service learning projects in the community.
3. Provide training to internal and external clinical supervisors to ensure high quality supervision for students.

Goal 6 – To develop a state and national reputation for innovative teaching and learning for the School of Human Services and Communication Disorders Program.

Strategic Plan Action Items (2021-2022):

#5: The program will establish sustainable Interprofessional Education opportunities for Communication Disorders students.

Measurable Objectives:

1. Ensure curriculum is up to date and reflects current standards and scope of practice.
2. Infuse various types of pedagogical practices into academic and clinical coursework to provide diverse opportunities to maximize student learning.
3. Evaluate student Praxis II scores on an annual basis and ensure that they meet or exceed the National average.
4. Develop independent student research opportunities.
5. Increase the number of student presentations at professional meetings.
6. Increase faculty scholarship through presentations, publications and/or external grants.

Please contact Dr. Greg Turner if you are interested in a copy of the 2021-2022 strategic plan.