

Program of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Audiology

Speech Language Pathology

Missouri State University

Three-Year Strategic Plan

FY 23 – FY 26

Introduction

The Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders has both graduate programs in audiology and speech language pathology, and undergraduate study in communication sciences and disorders. Admission to the Bachelor of Science degree program is granted to students who meet a required minimum grade point average and have completed a minimum of 50 semester hours including coursework in biological and physical sciences, mathematics and specific general education requirements. The Bachelor of Science degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders fulfills prerequisite requirements for the graduate coursework in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.

At the graduate level, students may pursue a master's degree (SLP) or a clinical doctorate (audiology). There is an accelerated degree option for students pursuing audiology. The graduate curriculum focuses on the academic, clinical, and research foundations for a career in communication disorders. The program is designed to prepare students to make intelligent decisions and take appropriate, thoughtful action. The program is organized to encourage the student to use critical thinking and problem solving to identify and meet the communication needs of individuals and families. Upon completion of a graduate degree, students are prepared for a career in their chosen area. Career settings include, but are not limited to, schools, hospitals, guidance centers, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, industry and private practice. Students are also prepared for entry into a PhD program.

Mission

The mission of the Programs encompasses the areas of teaching, research, and service. The Program strives to:

1. Educate and inspire life-long learners in the fields of Audiology and SLP
2. Serve individuals with communication disorders across the lifespan through exemplary, culturally competent education, clinical and collaborative services, and research
3. Positively affect the University and community through ethical leadership, community engagement, and cultural competence.

Educational Programs

Program Accreditation

The master's degree program in Speech-Language Pathology (MS) and the doctoral (AuD) program in Audiology are accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. A CAA accreditation site visit is scheduled for February 2025.

The Missouri State University Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic provides evaluation and treatment for all ages in the areas of audiology and speech-language pathology. The Audiology Program includes hearing and balance evaluations, hearing aid fitting, assistive listening device fitting and aural rehabilitation. The Speech-Language Pathology Program provides individual diagnosis and treatment for all types of communication disorders. Graduate students in the Programs provide services supervised by certified and licensed professionals.

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

Strengths: Collaborative faculty, diverse in our specialty areas of knowledge, diverse in our demographic makeup, collegial, knowledgeable, kind, invested, focus on community service, research dissemination, engaging, innovative, adaptable.

Weaknesses: Limited financial support for travel, diminishing full-time faculty lines; space/facilities especially when compared to other programs within our college; excessive service commitments, dependency on per course instruction; location of Springfield as it relates to student diversity and access to clinical sites, the distance students must travel for externship/off-site experiences; alumni involvement, status of the programs related to university realignment.

Opportunities: Adding more students from underrepresented populations, increase alumni support, community partnerships, create involvement in advisory boards, utilize/collab simulation labs with other programs, grants for tech/classrooms/simulation, more IPE, more college level research collaboration, more socialization among faculty.

Threats: Shrinking college age population across the nation can impact university enrollments, disconnect between our enrollment and resources, lack of off-sites/externships, need opportunities/incentives for community supervisors, funding/resources, technology ch

University LRP

1. [Evolving Academic Directions for Future Careers](#)
 - Number of professional doctoral programs
 - Number or percentage growth of students completing UG certificate programs
 - Number of percentage growth of completion of graduate certificates
 - Certificate as a pathway to a graduate degree
 - Process to evaluate new academic programs from a market value perspective in partnership with EAB
 - Roadmap to interdisciplinary programs/hires

- The path to tenure will include
 - Community outreach.
 - Workforce development.
 - Interdisciplinary program enhancement.
 - Curriculum innovation.
 - Student mentoring.
 - Scholarship tied to the public affairs mission.
- 2. [Global Engagement](#)
- 3. [Inclusive Excellence Driving University Success](#)
 - A deepened understanding of self-awareness.
 - An appreciation of other viewpoints and perspectives.
 - Mindfulness and the ability to be present in opportunities to learn and understand.
 - The capacity to embrace and celebrate differences.
- 4. [Community Leadership and Partnerships](#)

Three Year Goals:

CSD Goals	University LRP	Strategies for Obtaining Goals/Measured Outcomes	Scheduled Analysis of Plan Reviewed annually
Comply with our accreditation standards	1, 3	Currently we are in compliance with both the SLP and AuD programs. The AuD PRAXIS pass rate. Action plans have been implemented including (a) regularly reminding students of the expected timeline of test-taking (4 th year) (b) study Bootcamps which include faculty support.	Reviewed 2023
Create high impact learning experiences	1, 2, 3, 4	Both SLP and AuD have increased the use of Flipped Classroom teaching practices. We have increased our use of simulations to provide students with experiences with some of our lower incidence caseloads. SLP updated their curriculum to reflect current standards and needs. AuD is planning a curricular review in the fall of 2023.	Reviewed 2023 New curriculum initiated in summer 2023 Ongoing
Increase visibility of our program	1, 2, 3, 4	Website updated with newly published materials. AuD has increased their recruitment efforts. We dedicated GA hours to recruitment efforts in audiology. We continue to promote our program with an Ambassador program for tours. Satisfaction surveys to be	Under review summer 2023/completed fall 2023 Reviewed 2023 Reviewed 2023 Reviewed 2023

		<p>distributed and reviewed at the annual retreat.</p> <p>We have increased our use of social media with an alumni page/Facebook, a student organization page/Instagram, and a department page/Instagram.</p> <p>Measures to include number of new followers and post engagement.</p> <p>Our students and faculty have presented research internationally, nationally, and at the state level.</p>	<p>Reviewed 2023</p> <p>Reviewed by department head spring 2023</p>
<p>Increase and retain academically and clinically strong, underrepresented students</p>	<p>1, 2, 3, 4</p>	<p>SLP added two graduate certificate programs that are completely online and taught asynchronously to allow access to course content that otherwise might be inaccessible for non-traditional students. Measures include class enrollment for certificate program.</p> <p>Increase our recruitment efforts at the high school level. Faculty visit local high schools and have traveled outside of Springfield, engage in high school student talks on our campus, and hosted high school tours.</p> <p>One of our faculty members is a member of the executive board of the NAACP for students. Measures include number of students from underrepresented demographics</p>	<p>Reviewed 2023</p>

		enrolled in our undergraduate and graduate courses.	
Expand our clinical sites	1, 4	The MCHHS has developed partnerships with Cox and Mercy Hospitals with the goal of increasing student opportunities for practicums in their hospitals The university career center has partnered with programs to support efforts in expanding clinical opportunities.	Reviewed 2023