

San Jose State University
Connie L. Lurie College of Education
Department of Communicative
Disorders and Sciences

Mission: The Mission of the Department of Communicative Disorders and Sciences is to provide high-quality academic and clinical preparation to students seeking careers working with individuals who have speech, language and hearing disorders, and their families. Guided by principles of evidence-based practice and working in collaboration with other professionals, our graduates will adhere to the highest ethical standard in serving the needs of our diverse community.

We believe that by adhering to our Mission graduates from our program will exhibit the following core characteristics to support their careers as speech-language pathologists.

12 Core Characteristics of CDS Graduates

1. Graduates are knowledgeable about normal speech, language and communication behaviors across the lifespan (including geriatric). They are knowledgeable about the anatomy and physiology of the auditory and speech mechanisms and the neurological substrates of speech, language, and hearing.
2. Graduates have a strong foundation in normal and bilingual speech, language and communication development.
3. Graduates utilize evidence-based assessment and treatment approaches by accessing, evaluating, and applying research within the framework of their own clinical experiences and their client's values.
4. Our graduations exhibit knowledge and skills in the identification and treatment of speech language disorders from a multi-cultural perspective. They know when to use interpreters in service delivery, can separate a disorder from a difference, and know about formal and informal assessment tools that are valid for children and adults from a diversity of languages and cultures.
5. Graduates provide clinical services to individuals exhibiting a wide range of speech language, and communication disabilities through the life-span consistent with professional scope of practice in speech-language pathology.

6. Graduates provide services in a variety of employment settings including schools, hospitals, community agencies and clinics, and private practice.
7. Graduates make decisions regarding all aspects of the clinical process including analysis of assessment data with resulting recommendations designing and evaluating an effective treatment plan including family involvement and counseling.
8. Graduates are prepared to work with other professional disciplines to ensure effective treatment outcomes for persons served.
9. Graduates are committed to life-long learning to maintain the currency and use of the best practices in the field. Graduates use a variety of learning opportunities throughout their careers including workshop/seminar attendance, accessing literature for self study, internet leaning, etc.
10. Graduates utilize technology to support their clinical practice including electronic documentation, use of augmentative/alternative communication systems, and educational presentations.
11. Graduates are prepared to provide professional services consistent with the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and California State Codes of Professional Ethics.
12. Graduates are advocates on behalf of the persons they serve and their profession to ensure access, excellence, and equity in service delivery across all settings.

Vision: We believe that the Department of Communicative Disorders and Sciences is uniquely positioned to serve as the professional hub for speech-language pathologists and audiologists in the Silicon Valley. Utilizing CDS faculty expertise as well as department and University resources, the program will:

- 1) Be a source for ongoing professional development
- 2) Establish University/Community partnerships to serve individuals with communicative disorders across the life-span
- 3) Be a source of innovative models of professional preparation
- 4) Contribute to the knowledge base of the disciplines
- 5) Align with campus models of environmental sustainability

Strategic Plan

The CDS Strategic Plan is designed to guide our activities and priorities for the next three academic years (2009/10 -2011/12). Consistent with all strategic plans, it is intended to be a dynamic document that will be responsive to unanticipated changes in the external and internal environment of the program. We will review progress toward achieving our plan on a regular basis and will adjust our plan as appropriate to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of our students, and all other significant stakeholders.

In alignment with our mission and vision, the plan identifies our objectives for the next three years in the areas of:

- 1) Academics
- 2) Clinic
- 3) Research
- 4) Community
- 5) Sustainability



Academics

- ❖ Increase the overall and major GPA of undergraduate students
- ❖ Improve praxis performance of program graduates to 90% or better pass rate
- ❖ Explore models for streamlining the program to decrease credit load
- ❖ Review and revise the clinic sequence for graduate students
- ❖ Increase the number of students selecting the project or thesis option for their culminating experience
- ❖ Revise the Department comprehensive exam format
- ❖ Complete a deep curriculum review
- ❖ Explore the development of specialty tracks in the program (child vs. adult)

Clinic

- ❖ Establish a professional development plan for clinic supervisors
- ❖ Grow the GTW Community Clinic project to include a minimum of 3 additional sites
- ❖ Explore and develop specialty clinics (e.g. accent modification, voice, AAC)
- ❖ Develop a support program for caregivers of individuals with communication disorders
- ❖ Evaluate inventory control systems for the diagnostic center
- ❖ Establish a recognition/award plan for supervisors

Research

- ❖ Increase extramural support for the program
- ❖ Increase the number of student assistants available to assist faculty
- ❖ Identify opportunities for additional faculty release time to write and execute grants
- ❖ Increase the level of clinical research
- ❖ Increase the number of presentations and publications by program faculty

Community

- ❖ Establish a twice-yearly outreach program to bring community supervisors to campus
- ❖ Establish a continuing education program for the professional community
- ❖ Participate in the COE Center for Reaching and Teaching the Whole Child
- ❖ Market the CDS program and clinic to the community
- ❖ Participate in campus-wide projects designed to outreach to the public and professional community in the South Bay

Sustainability

- ❖ Implement a paperless clinic record keeping system
- ❖ Implement a paperless student tracking/advising system
- ❖ Increase the use of scoring software to reduce paper protocols
- ❖ Increase the use of electronic document sharing for all program purposes
- ❖ Ensure the dept. is compliant with SJSU requirements re: accessible instructional material