

Vision

We want a reputation for being the strongest and most well-rounded undergraduate and graduate CSD program in the state of Alabama.

Mission

The mission of the Department of Communication Science and Disorders is to establish and provide distinctive academic programs for students in Speech-Language Pathology, collaborations with community partners, and service to individuals with communication, voice, and swallowing disorders across the life span.

The department is committed to preparing students to become dedicated, competent clinical leaders in the field of Speech Language Pathology. The Curriculum cultivates global and professional awareness and emphasizes the problem solving and critical thinking skills necessary to become strong professionals capable of serving varied client populations.

Envisioned Future

We envision a future with updated clinical technology, supervisors trained in the latest practices and offered opportunities for career development. Our undergraduate students will find success in applying to graduate programs and establishing careers. Our academic and clinic curriculums will meet and exceed the standards of The Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) and the Council for Clinical Certification (CFCC) of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association. Our graduate students will be prepared to collaborate and engage in interprofessional practice and to meet the increasing need in our country for SLPs who are highly prepared to work with individuals with communication, voice, and swallowing disorders. Our students, faculty and staff will have opportunities for self-care and appropriate work-life balance.

UM Strategic Plan 2021-2026

Themes: Identity and Mission, Focus and Growth, Innovations for Teaching and Learning, Support for Learning

CSD Focus Area 1: Knowledge and Respect for Client and Student Populations

ISSUE A: The CSD department is committed to recruiting and retaining students who reflect the populations they serve. **Supports UM strategic plan Theme 2, *Focus on Growth*.**

A-1 GOAL: By fall of 2024, CSD faculty and staff will examine and revise M.S. SLP admission requirements and procedures.

Goal Met. The department no longer requires the GRE and will allow conditional admissions.

A-2 GOAL: By May of 2024, CSD faculty and staff will improve knowledge and create self-awareness of unintended partisanship with at least 7/9 members of the department completing agreed upon readings.

Goal Met. All nine faculty and staff members participated in the book group and discussions.

A3 Goal: By August of 2024, Instructors will increase content relating to distinctions in expected client base 4/15 required academic M.S. SLP courses and 5/15 required B.S. SLP courses.

Goal Met. Content was increased in 7 graduate and 5 undergraduate courses.

CSD Focus Area 2: Innovations in Teaching and Learning

Issue B- The CSD Department is continually focused on improving student outcomes and enhancing Instructor/supervisor teaching and clinical skills.

Supports UM strategic plan: *Innovations for Teaching and Learning*

B-1 GOAL: Create a pathway to undergraduate research and complete an average of 2 projects per year beginning in the 2022-2023 academic year.

B-1 OUTCOME DATA: Goal not met.

B-2 GOAL: Each faculty member and clinical supervisor will improve knowledge in the field by identifying an area of weakness and completing three or more learning opportunities in that area by August of 2025.

B-2 Outcome: Goal partially met. Five faculty members completed 3, and 2 faculty members completed 2.

B-3 GOAL: Improve preparedness for medical settings

B-3 OUTCOME DATA. Goal Met. A tracheostomy manikin was purchased with a grant secured by Dr. Vansant in March of 2022 for use in CSD 545, Seminar in Voice. Medical terminology content and assessment was added to CSD 534, Motor Speech Disorders. In addition, the Sertoma Foundation provided a grant in 2022 to purchase a video otoscope. Exit interviews in 2024 did not list tracheostomy, chart review, or medical terminology as a weakness or need.

B-4 Goal: Increase opportunities for Interprofessional practice by August of 2025 by adding two opportunities not tied to a clinical rotation.

B-4 OUTCOME DATA Goal Met. In the fall semesters of 2022 and 2023, 2nd year graduate students attended a 3- day camp for individuals with TBI. Several disciplines worked together to provide assessment and compensatory strategies to the camp participants: OT, PT, Social Work, Optometry, SLP. In the fall of 2023, first year graduate students participated in a shaken baby case simulation with students in the social work program.

CSD Focus Area 3: Recruitment

Issue C. Applications for the M.S. SLP program have been decreasing over the last 5 years. The program has fewer scholarships than our competitors. Our building has not received a renovation in over 20 years. The facility is older and the classroom space is limited. If we are going to be able to compete for students, we need the university to invest in this program.

Supports UM Strategic Plan *Theme 2: Focus on Growth*

C-1 Goal: The department will secure 4 additional \$4,000 scholarships for graduate student recruitment.

C-1 OUTCOME DATA: Goal Met