Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders Mission

Undergraduate Program in Communication Sciences and Disorders

The mission of our undergraduate program is two-fold. Our program is committed to providing students with foundation knowledge in communication sciences and disorders required for graduate study in speech-language pathology and audiology. Our broader mission is to prepare baccalaureate graduates:

- To acquire the knowledge and skills to pursue a variety of post-baccalaureate options;
- To communicate effectively as speakers and writers;
- To become life-long learners who can engage in inquiry, analysis, critical and creative thinking and collaborative team work; and
- To embrace with understanding individuals from diverse and multilingual heritage.

Graduate Program in Communication Sciences and Disorders

The overall vision of the Communication Sciences and Disorders (COMDIS) graduate program is to be recognized regionally and nationally for its exceptional clinical education program and its dedicated network of faculty, clinical instructors and alumni. The mission of the graduate program in COMDIS is to prepare speech-language pathologists to practice across the lifespan and all settings particularly in the southeastern region of Wisconsin. Specific objectives include:

- To prepare highly qualified professionals in speech-language pathology who exceed the guidelines of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) for clinical and academic preparation;
- To prepare speech-language pathology professionals to assess, diagnose and treat clients of diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds; and
- To act as a resource for the University and community by serving as consultants, facilitators and authorities in the various areas of communication disorders.

Communication Sciences & Disorders
Strategic Plan 2025-2030

UWW STRAT PLAN THEME	COEPS STRAT GOALS	COMDIS STRAT PRIORITY	COMDIS GOAL & BENCHMARKS
Create an inclusive environment for student success	Promote student success and retention through a wrap-around advising model that supports students as they progress through their major Promote student success and retention through early identification of students who are struggling and providing connection to academic and other supports. Promote student recruitment through continuation/refinement of existing efforts and identification or creation of new outreach methods.	Create awareness of and access to SLP/AuD professions	Continue to engage with university and college admission, advising, and outreach opportunities ● Facilitate COMDIS activities at campus events for prospective students every academic year ● Maintain weekly social media content throughout the academic year ● Share information about dual enrollment COMDIS course with alumni and education professional network ● Continue to promote COMDIS post bac certificate and second degree offering Maintain and develop opportunities for peer leadership within the program ● Facilitate two peer mentorship opportunities within the department
Enhance Value of UWW Education	Maintain reputation for existing, traditional in-person programming while expanding flexible course and program offerings to meet the demands of regional workforce partners and nontraditional learners Promote technology use to enhance teaching and learning, develop professionals who can use artificial intelligence and technology tools in an ethically responsible manner, and integrate technology into all aspects of our work to improve efficiency and increase value,	Pursue flexibility and innovation amid program offerings in order to include a variety of learners and prepare future SLP/AuD professionals to serve diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.	Explore innovative options for program completion. ● Discuss opportunities for fully online COMDIS BS/BA degree ● Discuss opportunities for hybrid COMDIS graduate program Utilize technology for universal design/innovation to support learning and model translational opportunities for future professional work. ● Create plan for teletherapy clinic offerings ● Develop/refine AI integration assignment(s) in undergraduate and graduate courses Prepare for transition to new clinical space with the WInther renovation.

	as well as promote equity in learning.		● Meet with dept chair of counseling to discuss collaborative clinics/use
Deepen Culture of Collaboration	Increase external grant funding for faculty and donor investment in the college	Engage with internal and external stakeholders and relevant organizations.	Maintain and develop collaborations and encourage submissions for funding. ● Coordinate clinic service opportunities with UW LIFE, UWW Children's Center, UWW Pride Center, FairHaven Senior Services, St. Colletta's, and Whitewater Unified School District ● Support contract renewal with DHS for WI Sound Beginnings Program ● Submit one internal or external funding proposal
Enhance Co-Curricular Experiences	Develop and nurture partnerships and collaborations in our region, state, nation and internationally, including schools, medical facilities, businesses, and community agencies. This may include community-based learning designated courses, grow-your-own educator pathways, placements for students (e.g., clinical experiences, practicum, internships), international student teaching opportunities, professional learning communities, and extra-curricular experiences (e.g., nursing home visitations)	Facilitate highly relevant and applied learning experiences to support achievement of professional goals/standards.	Maintain and develop experiential learning opportunities (placements, clinics, research, presentations, outreach, etc.) ● Mentor at least two undergraduate research projects each year ● Offer independent study/special topics on a rotating schedule ● Develop/implement two new field study/internship experiences ● Develop AAC experience