

**UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
COMMUNICATION DISORDERS PROGRAM
STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-2015**

Vision Statement

The program will be a national leader in preparing professionals entering the fields of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology through the integration of research, clinical training, and education in communication sciences and disorders, and will serve as a center of excellence for individuals with communication disorders.

Mission statement

The mission of the Communication Disorders Program is to educate students on the nature, prevention, and treatment of communication disorders. This is accomplished using theoretically sound, and evidence-based, curricula utilizing a variety of instructional techniques. This will be achieved by applying scientific principles to clinical practice, conducting applied and basic research, and conforming to the highest ethical standards.

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FOCUS	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINE	METRIC
<i>Undergraduate Curriculum</i> A comprehensive pre-professional curriculum is a necessary prerequisite for a seamless transition to graduate studies in audiology and speech-language pathology.	Revise and reorganize undergraduate curriculum	Academic faculty	2011-2012 AY	Approval of all revisions by CLAS Courses and Curriculum Committee in time for entry to 2012-2013 undergraduate catalog
	Revise course scheduling	Academic faculty	2013-2014 AY	Increase number of courses offered either semester from 4 to 8.
	Decrease percentage of undergrad courses taught by doctoral students	Department Head	2014-2015 AY	Increase number of fulltime teaching faculty (tenure-track) by 20%.
<i>Graduate Curriculum</i> A comprehensive graduate curriculum is critical for the preparation of clinically competent audiologists and speech-language pathologists	Add courses on augmentative and alternative communication, cochlear implants, and vestibular disorders	Academic faculty	2013-2014 AY	

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<i>Clinical Education</i> Comprehensive, evidence-based clinical experiences are necessary to graduate competent clinicians in audiology and speech-language pathology	Pursue and secure a broader variety of healthcare and practice settings with competent supervisors who can provide the best clinical learning opportunities for our students	Clinical faculty	2014-2015 AY	Increase the number of high quality off-campus practicum placements from 35 to 50.
	Market the UCSHC to community agencies for specialty areas of practice (e.g., childhood apraxia of speech, acquired brain injury, and fluency)	All faculty	2013-2014 AY	Increase proportion of specialty referrals from 10% to 25%.
	Improve integration of services between UCHSC and UCHC	Director UCSHC	2012-2013 AY	Initiate consulting for the provision and coordination of SLP services at UCHC.

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<i>Graduate Student Recruitment</i> The CDIS program seeks to recruit academically-strong students with the potential to contribute to their fields through clinical practice, teaching and/or research.	Identify and seek sources of funding for these students such as training grants.	All faculty	2012-2013 AY	Increase percentage of graduate students with external funding from 10% to 25%.
	Recruitment of applicants for the PhD program will be nationally-based.	Academic faculty	2014-2015 AY	Increase the proportion of PhD students from outside of New England from 20% to 50%.
	Recruitment activities will focus on high quality candidates including those from under-represented groups.	All faculty	2014-2015 AY	Increase the proportion of under-represented groups among our graduate students from 10% to 20%.
	Program faculty need to maintain a presence at major professional meetings.	All faculty	2012-2013 AY	Increase proportion of faculty actively participating at major professional meetings from 35% to 60%.

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<p><i>Research Profile</i> UConn is classified as having very high research activity. Products of such activity include refereed publications, external funding, and rigorously-trained doctoral students.</p>	Greater research activity within CDIS will increase the program's visibility nationally as well as within the university.	Academic faculty	2013-2014 AY	Increase the amount of external funding for research and training by 25%.
		Academic faculty	2012-2013 AY	Increase number of refereed journal articles by 25%.
		Department Head	2013-2014 AY	Secure additional administrative support for grant management.
	Expand CDIS PhD program.	Academic faculty	2013-2014 AY	a) Increase the number of students in the CDIS PhD programs from 12 to 16. b) Increase the number of PhD graduates who are competitive applicants for excellent post-doctoral, and academic /clinical research positions.
	Enrich research environment for graduate students by re-initiating monthly CDIS research colloquium	Academic faculty	2011-2012 AY	Schedule research colloquium for at least six dates this AY.

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<i>Program Support</i> Adequate space facilitates all aspects of the CDIS program's operation: teaching, research, and clinical training.	Secure additional lab and office space.	Department Head	2011-2012 AY	Renovation of existing space within the Phillips building will yield 4-5 additional offices and 1 new lab.
	Secure additional clinical/lab space outside of the Phillips building.	Department Head	2011-2012 AY	Continue discussions with CLAS Dean's office regarding obtaining space at the Depot campus.

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<i>Public Profile</i> Increased visibility of the CDIS program will attract resources from within and outside the university.	Work with CLAS offices of External Affairs, Development, and Alumni Relations to develop avenues for increasing visibility.	Department Head/Director UCSHC	2012-2013 AY	Establish means for efficiently maintaining the CDIS website.
		Director UCSHC	2011-2012 AY	Publicize UCSHC activities on campus.
		All Faculty	2013-2014 AY	Increase consulting activities of clinical and research faculty by 25%.
		Academic Faculty	2014-2015 AY	Establish five collaborations with national and international research and training centers.
		All Faculty	2012-2013 AY	Establish three new continuing education opportunities for clinicians working in New England.
		All Faculty	2012-2013 AY	Develop additional procedures for contacting and developing ongoing interactions with CDIS program alumni.