

Dewar College of Education and Human Services
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Complete College Georgia Plan and Department Strategic Plan
8/1/21 to 10/1/24

Mission Statement: *The mission of the Communication Sciences and Disorders Program at Valdosta State University is to engage students in learning, research, clinical practice, and service. This mission is based on artistic, humanistic, scientific, and cultural principles related to communication disorders. Graduates are prepared to engage in a lifetime commitment to the use of evidence-based practices in their chosen profession. They are prepared in ways that will enable them to participate in vital professional roles in the region they serve and in state and national arenas.*

The following objectives have been developed by the Dewar College of Education, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. The objectives are associated with the college and university goals which are informed by the college's mission and parallel affiliated University 's strategies. The departmental objectives are not intended to expand the college goals but rather to define a quantifiable outcome as a measure of the successful implementation of each college goals as defined within and by each department. The plan is reviewed, discussed, and updated by faculty twice a year, fall and spring semesters.

Strategy: *Increase diverse learning experiences*

College Goal: **Explore joint appointments of faculty across departments**

University Goal/Outcome: **Outcome 2.1**

Associated Departmental Objective(s): **To increase the number of interprofessional (IPE) and interprofessional practice (IPP) opportunities in the curriculum.**

Implementation Plan: **Faculty members will evaluate and identify IPE and IPP opportunities in the curriculum. Plans will be devised to increase opportunities in the classroom and in the clinic. CSD faculty will contact faculty in related professions to increase teaching, research, and clinical activities.**

Current Status: IPE is included in some course activities.

Timeline: Fall 2021 to Fall 2022

Responsible Agents: CSD Faculty

Goal Status/Update:

1. Clinical supervisor provides guest lectures in exercise physiology related to how to communicate with neuro-involved clients-Katie Walden
2. PT, OT, and other health related professionals provide guest lectures in Aphasia and Dysphagia courses (3 occurrences)
3. Graduate clinicians attend team conferences during hospital practicum in the inpatient rehab unit
4. Students in the Aphasia course interact with related professionals (PT, ST, activity director) at Canopy Memory Care Unit and Assisted Living Center

Strategy: *Improve program diversity and inclusion*

College Goal: **Review curriculum to identify how diversity is included or not included**

University Goal/Outcome: **Not included**

Associated Departmental Objective(s): **To evaluate and implement the inclusion of diversity and inclusion in the curriculum, teaching practices, and self-practices.**

Implementation Plan: **CSD faculty will examine the inclusion of diversity and inclusion in the academic and clinical curriculum, assignments, and activities. Based on the results on the assessment, CSD faculty will create a plan to include consistently include increased awareness and activities related to diversity inclusion. This may include the inclusion of course objectives that explicitly address diversity and inclusion. The Diversity and Inclusion committee will develop and facilitate a cultural and linguistic diversity student group.**

Current Status: Faculty are currently expected to infuse diversity and inclusion in teaching practices and course content.

Timeline: Fall 2021 to Summer 2022

Responsible Agents: CSD Faculty

Goal Status/Update:

1. All faculty updated course syllabi to include diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) objectives related to course content
2. A faculty book study was completed to increase knowledge base and discussions related to DEI.
3. Choosing culturally responsive materials for therapy is taught during the Beginner's Seminar to each Beginning cohort.
4. Faculty evaluated course content and increased inclusion of cultural aspects from various texts; including culturally diverse clients/cases to present during lectures
5. Felix-virtual therapy
6. In the undergraduate introduction course, students created digital books that reflected global and ethnocultural aspects (disabilities, culture)

7. The undergraduate Dialect and Culture course included increased incorporation of ethnocultural and global issues into assignments. Students are also required to complete an ethnographic interview and present about various cultures.
8. The number of culturally and linguistically diverse assessments/interventions viewed has been increased in the Observation course.
9. During therapeutic dining students are required to interview/discuss with clients preferences for diet based on culture.

Strategy: *Improve visibility and communication efforts of the program and clinic/recruitment*

College Goals: **Expand the activities of the Family Works Clinic and the Speech and Language Clinic**

COEHS will publish a newsletter and publication that summarizes the successes of our college

University Goal/Outcome: **Outcome 3**

Associated Departmental Objective(s): **To increase the number of and types of efforts to promote positive aspects of the program and clinic**

To increase communicative attempts to stakeholders regarding program positivity including grants, services, and other achievements

To implement marketing and publicity activities at college, university, local, regional, state, and national levels

Implementation Plan: **The department will increase posts to social media sites; improve the current department website; create a newsletter for alumnae; use departmental space to showcase awards and recognition received; and create improved marketing materials (e.g., videos, brochures, infographics). CSD faculty will attend junior and high school related career fairs and career fairs hosted by technical and junior colleges. Information about the CSD program will also be disseminated to these places.**

Current Status: The department currently has marketing materials but some are outdated. Due to COVID-19, no visits have taken place to share information about the CSD field or program. Social media sites are used to share information about the program but is done so infrequently.

Timeline: Fall 2022 to Fall 2024

Responsible Agents: CSD Faculty, Staff, and Students (e.g., graduate assistants)

Goal Status/Update:

1. CSD faculty participated in career day at a community school to increase awareness about the field of communication sciences and disorders.

2. Graduate and undergraduate students complete annual literacy screenings at community schools.
3. Graduate students and faculty provide literacy assessments and treatments at the Boys and Girls Club and VSU Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic.
4. The website has been modified to showcase student research, departmental involvement and engage alumni.
5. A radio advertisement related to the graduate program was presented on NPR advertisement.
6. Students completed hearing screenings at the Canopy and local community schools.
7. The CSD department is partnering with COEHS Sullivan Literacy Center to further increase literacy related initiatives.
8. A bi-annual alumni newsletter has been created to engage alumni and share updated news about the department.
9. A recognition award for exceptional alumni has been created.

Strategy: *Increase student learning outcomes across academic and clinical curricula*

College Goal: All educational programs will embed educational activities for students that engage them in service learning

University Goal/Outcome: **Outcome 2.3**

Associated Departmental Objectives: **Increase collaboration opportunities between the clinical and academic faculty**

Increase experiential and research activities

Implementation Plan: Academic and clinic faculty will create a plan to facilitate the carryover/generalization skills learning in the clinic and courses. Additionally, faculty will devise a plan to increase the number of experiential and research activities that are available for students in courses and outside of courses.

Current Status: Graduate students currently complete a research project as a part of their master's degree curriculum. Some courses integrate experiential activities but this may not be consistent.

Timeline: Spring 2022 to Spring 2024

Responsible Agents: CSD Faculty

Goal status/Updates:

1. Clinical supervisors/faculty collaborate with academic faculty to conduct a Dysphagia simulation lab. The supervisors assist with conducting with lab activities-Laura, Katie, Renee

2. Consultation and Dx – supervisors attend to discuss specific topics related to clinical activities
3. Clinical faculty collaborate with academic faculty to conduct research. Mary G. and Katie W.
4. Ana Marie discusses how to work with clients from different cultures
5. SLPs from the community provide guest lectures; SLP from the local hospital - discusses working with individuals from different cultures
6. Clinical faculty provide guest lectures with academic faculty for various cultures: Karen speaks in Culture about bilingualism
7. Academic faculty applied for a summer research grant with undergraduate students. – Matt C.