

**Communicative Disorders  
Strategic Plan  
2017-2022**

*Updated February 2020*

**Mission**

The Department of Communicative Disorders is committed to the sharing, translation, application, and dissemination of knowledge related to behavioral, cognitive, and neurological features of communication and swallowing across the life span.

We emphasize evidence-based practices in our students’ academic and clinical experiences and integrate these practices into our service provision.

An American Speech Language Hearing Association accredited program, the CD department produces students who represent the highest achievements in scholarship, service, and clinical practices.

**Vision**

The Department of Communicative Disorders at the University of Alabama will create and disseminate evidence based information related to the fields of audiology and speech-language pathology to provide the highest quality education for undergraduate and graduate students, clinical services to individuals in need, and research to the state of Alabama.

Values: Research, Education, Clinical Care, and Community Engagement and Service

**Focus Area: Research**

Five year goals:

1. Foster new cross-disciplinary relationships.
2. Address barriers to research
3. Increase research culture of the department

Two year Goals	2017-18 Outcomes	2018-19 Outcomes	2019-20 Outcomes	2020-21 Outcomes	2021-22 Outcomes
1. Develop an open forum for researchers across campus to visit our research labs and present our	6 faculty collaborated with faculty and/or clinical labs across colleges and	7 faculty collaborated with faculty across disciplines and colleges.			

research.	departments.				
2. Cultivate community-engaged research by partnering with at least 3 community agencies.	Faculty met to identify and discuss potential and current community partners. Will measure number of partners and identify any overlapping community resources.	Faculty reported partnerships with 14 community agencies. Goal met.			
3. Enhance understanding and knowledge of faculty research within the department.	Provided research summary in Hear Here Newsletter	One faculty member each month provides research summary at faculty meetings. Student research presented at monthly pro-sems.			
4. Explore feasibility of hiring a part time professional to assist in grant writing	Requested-College denied	Requested-College suggested we connect with ALRI to access their grants specialist			
5. Develop a list of equipment needs within the department	Committee met to identify needs. Discussed possible funding	Incorporated equipment needs into 2019-2020 budget for ROH funds.			

	options. Prioritized needs.				
6.Seek funding mechanisms to support research/clinical collaborations	Ongoing	Ongoing			

Indicators of success:

\*88% of faculty established cross-disciplinary research collaborations including with Computer Science, Engineering, Modern Languages, and Psychology.

**Focus Area: Clinic**

Five year goals:

1. Hire an additional clinical educator to address growing need to serve Hispanic community.
2. Incorporate new technological equipment and software programs into our clinical program.
3. Incorporate electronic medical records in our clinical program.
4. Obtain funds for a Sensory Integration Room to promote multidisciplinary approach and IPE opportunities.

Two year Goals	2017-18 Outcomes	2018-19 Outcomes	2019-20 Outcomes	2020-21 Outcomes	2021-22 Outcomes
1. Provide an annual clinical training on resonance.	Provided by a specialist at UAB.	Not provided but identified a professional who can provide the training next year.			
3.Integrate audiological services for graduate and UG students within the SHC.	*CD 377, CD 445, and CD 517 students complete pediatric hearing screenings every	CD 445 and CD 517 students participate in Head Start and Preschool speech and hearing			

	<p>semester and adult hearing screenings annually.  * CD 517 students request full audiological assessments of SHC clients that fail hearing screenings. Students have opportunities to shadow full audiological assessments on their clients.</p>	<p>screenings at Sumter County, CDRC, the RISE school and the Capitol School.</p>			
<p>4.Incorporate new technological equipment and software programs into our clinic program</p>					
<p>5.Explore electronic medical records for SHC</p>	<p>Reviewed options and cost of EMRs. Spoke with other users. Determined budget for moving forward.</p>	<p>Identified Point and Click as the EMR system the SHC will utilize. Funding has been secured and payment has been completed. Training is set</p>			

		to begin Dec 2019.			
6. Install at least 4 additional video recording cameras into separate therapy rooms.	6 cameras were installed, which completes the camera installation needs for the entire SHC.	Goal met			
7. Develop a pediatric AAC loaner library.	Loaner devices acquired.	Goal met			
8. Establish a facility assessment committee to evaluate the physical space.	Multiple SHC facility projects have been completed: ADA approved SHC sidewalk entrance, re-carpeting, painting in treatment and SHC main corridor, ADA compliant front office counter, new waiting room furniture, new seating and tables for Bama Perks, new seating in adult neuro treatment	Space updates: pediatric waiting room was been updated and painted. Additional space for the SHC has been acquired through UA.			

	rooms, wall art for ped waiting area, and media cart.				
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Indicators of success:

\*AAC loaner library has been established and is providing a helpful resource to families served through the SHC and training opportunities for students.

\*8 space updates have been completed in 2 years.

**Focus Area: Service**

Five year goals:

1. Offer at least 6 educational presentations to on- and off-campus groups (e.g., rotary, optimist club, etc.). *Goal met*
2. Continue to collaborate with campus and community partners to provide experiential service learning for students and faculty.

Two year Goals	2017-18 Outcomes	2018-19 Outcomes	2019-20 Outcomes	2020-21 Outcomes	2021-22 Outcomes
1.Contact UA faculty, staff, student, and community groups to determine interest in screenings.	SHC provided screenings to 4 community agencies.	SHC provided screenings to 5 community agencies.			
2. Increase awareness of our department in the university and local community.	Utilized social media to promote departmental activities and resources. 6 faculty presented community and UA talks about	10 faculty presented talks about SHC resources and services to community and UA groups.			

	SHC services and resources.				
3. Provide at least 3 presentations to university based groups.	Faculty and clinical educators provided talks at 6 UA and community groups	Faculty and clinical educators provided talks at 9 UA groups			
6. Seek funding mechanisms to support research/clinical collaborations	Identified mechanisms, established plan to submit proposal in next 2 years.				

Indicators of success:

Faculty met 5 year goal #1 by providing 6 or more presentations to UA groups. Continue goal to promote awareness of SHC services.