

2023 Executive Summary of The Department of Communicative Disorders' 2022-2027 Strategic Plan

The 2022-2027 strategic plan for The University of Alabama's Department of Communicative Disorders was initiated in September of 2022. The following provides highlights of accomplishments across the core focus areas (collaboration & research, administration, and degree programs) from calendar year 2023. The current strategic plan can be accessed on the Department of Communicative Disorders (CD) website: <https://cd.ua.edu/overview/strategic-plan-2017-2022/>

Collaboration & Research

During calendar year 2023, CD worked to increase the number of research and clinical community partnerships and increase scholarly output of the department. Major accomplishments in each area include:

- CD continues to foster open and active research relationships with the Alabama Life Research Institute (ALRI) and the College of Engineering
- One research and one clinical faculty member will give a brief (5 min/presentation) description of current topics of clinical/research focus at Department Meetings beginning in the Spring 2024 semester; schedule was set during Fall 2023 semester
- Between 10/1/22 and 11/30/23 the following grants were submitted by faculty in the department of Communicative Disorders:

Name	Role	Sponsor	Title	Amount
Campanelli	PI	University of Memphis	Information processing biases in adults who stutter: Behavioral and eye-tracking indices of threat-related attention allocation	\$112,759.00
Campanelli	PI	University of Georgia	Cross-linguistic computational neuroscience	\$7,328.00
Gosa	Co-PI	NSF	REU Site: Engineering Sensors, Systems, and Signal Processing for Speech Pathology	\$224,946.50
Hay-McCutcheon	PI	NIH	Improving Access and Affordability of Adult Hearing Healthcare: Effectiveness of Community-based Interventions in West Central and South Alabama	\$1,754,215.00
Hay-McCutcheon	PI	NIH	Increasing Access to Hearing Healthcare: An Assessment of Pharmacy Technician Educational Training for the Provision of Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids in Rural Alabama and Mississippi Pharmacies	\$425,823.00
Malaia	PI	NSF	CRCNS Research Proposal: Collaborative Research: Temporal	\$773,600.00

			Regulation of Neural Synchrony in Autism Spectrum Disorder	
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- During calendar year 2023, CD faculty were working on the following funded grants

Name	Grant Title
Hay-McCutcheon	Improving Access & Affordability of Adult Hearing Healthcare Effectiveness of Community Based Interventions in West Central & South Alabama
Reed	What's in a Grammar? A Micro-comparative Study of Negation in American Englishes

- Dr. Campanelli completed the Bauer Grant Writing Workshop in the Spring 2023 semester

Administration

During calendar year 2023, this focus of the strategic plan targeted expanding and diversifying the Department of Communicative Disorders' offerings to support the vision of being the Southeast's premiere educational program for training in the fields of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. Major accomplishments include:

- Reviewed the requirements for becoming an ASHA CEU provider; will proceed with the application during the 2024 – 2025 academic year
- Identified a partner program (Honors College- Honors in Holland) for collaborating on a study abroad experience for undergraduate students in the Department of Communicative Disorders
- Identified a department member to lead study abroad experience; Mary Bryan will teach an undergraduate CD course as part of the Honors in Holland study abroad experience during Summer 2024
- Met with the DEI Committee to align goals and objectives from strategic plan target to increase diversity representation in students & faculty/staff
- Revamped clinical forms to provide inclusive language on all UA SHC clinical forms; partnered with AC Goldberg, PhD, CCC-SLP to review and revise forms
- Established a yearly program administered to graduate students centered around evidence-based practices related to DEI concerns in the field of CSD. Carried out for the first time in Spring 2023; next program will be presented on March 19, 2024
- Flexible Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing training course offered at UA during July 2023; clinical educator and graduate students able to attend for free.
- Clinical educator, Kayce Hinton, completed the McNeil Dysphagia Therapy training course during the Spring 2023 semester
- Implemented clinical voice assessments at no cost to UA students in the music and theater/dance departments.

Degree Programs

During calendar year 2023, this part of the strategic plan focused energy on developing academic and clinical training experiences at the undergraduate and graduate levels to promote student growth. Major accomplishments in each area include:

- Initiated department representation at A&S high school recruiting events (attended 3) to increase recruitment of undergraduate students into the CD major
- Senior seminar was developed and offered by Mary Ray-Allen to undergraduate students (juniors/seniors) to provide practical information and training related to future academic and career options; offered during Fall 2023
- Curriculum committee voted and approved the development of an undergraduate elective on dysphagia & voice
- Graduate student/academic faculty pairings were initiated to provide support to graduate students; initiated Fall 2022, continued Fall 2023
- Sara Shirley took on the role of Undergraduate Program Director and serves on the curriculum committee; providing representation of the clinical faculty to the curriculum committee

A copy of the full 2022 – 2027 strategic plan can be found on the department's website cd.ua.edu