

# **Strategic Plan Executive Summary for Communication Sciences and Disorders at NAU (revised 9/2023)**

## **PREFACE**

This Executive Summary of the Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) 5-year Strategic Plan provides alignment of our mission, values, goals, and accreditation standards for the period of 2018-2023. The strategic plan is reviewed by CSD faculty and staff on a regular basis in order to assess progress toward accomplishment of objectives and goals. This summary reflects updates to the Strategic Plan based on a CSD faculty review on 8/24/2023. The current Strategic Plan was developed for the period of 2018-2023. At the beginning of 2024, the CSD faculty and staff, with input from other CSD constituents (e.g., students, staff, community members), will develop a new program mission statement, new program goals, and a new 5-year strategic plan. The main goal of the new documents will be to bring our program mission and goals into clear alignment with the new NAU 2025-Elevating Excellence mission and strategic priorities that were developed by the current administration of President Jose Luis Cruz Rivera.

## **Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders Mission and goals:**

The mission of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Northern Arizona University is to advance the knowledge and practice in human communication and its disorders, to prepare our students to lead in the professions of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, and to enable all individuals to communicate, read, write, think, and learn, in order to succeed in a changing world.

To accomplish this mission, we will ...

- acquire new knowledge through empirical research
- promote scholarship and other creative works
- contribute to the profession at local, regional, national, and international levels
- foster critical thought in a learning-centered environment
- incorporate technology to enhance classroom and clinical teaching
- mentor students to achieve professional competence in serving individuals of all ages
- serve as a local and regional clinical resource for individuals with communication disorders
- foster interdisciplinary collaboration
- excel in professional service

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is committed to enriching research, teaching, learning and the professional service environment by embracing the cultural and linguistic diversity of our region and nation.

## **Objectives that have been met since implementation of the current strategic plan:**

### **Related to Standard 1.9**

1. Website, catalogs, social media, and advertisements will be revised to include undergraduate learning outcomes.
2. Website, catalogs, social media and advertisements will reflect the change from SST prefix to CSD prefix for all coursework.

3. Website, catalogs, social media and advertisements will reflect the change from BIS degree to BS in CSD.
4. CSD now has printed rack cards and ADA compliant electronic flyers for all of our academic programs and the SLH Clinic.

#### Related to Standard 2.1

1. Hire additional faculty with expertise in dysphagia, cultural and linguistic diversity, and autism.
2. Hire a faculty member with expertise in speech science.

#### Related to Standard 3.2

1. Restructure and implement and undergraduate curriculum for new Bachelors degree for CSD. (implemented in Fall 2020)

#### Related to Standard 6.3

1. CSD will complete department renovations for academic and clinical study and practice. (Accomplishments include remodel of Voice/Swallow lab, renovation of the Henderson Cultural and Linguistic Diversity lab, several office build-outs and renovations, installation of air conditioning)

#### Related to Standard 6.4

1. CSD will continue implementation of the new Electronic Medical Record system for clinical practice.
2. CSD students will have access to a swallowing software system to acquire knowledge and skills in swallowing evaluation and treatment.

#### Related to Standard 6.5

1. CSD will use a video recording system for clinical practice to maximize clinician training.

#### Related to Standard 6.6

1. Hire a part-time administrative associate for CSD office. (CSD hired a full-time Academic Program Coordinator to support CSD students, faculty, and operations)