

**Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology
Five Year Strategic Plan
2013 - 2017**

Vision

The Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology is nationally recognized for educational, clinical and research programs that serve Arkansas, the mid-south, and the nation by:

- Provision of excellent education that promotes competency, professionalism, and leadership
- Implementation of innovative clinical programs
- Generation and dissemination of knowledge through research and scholarship

Values

The Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology values excellence in:

- Education
- Patient and family-centered care
- Scholarship
- Communication access
- Diversity
- Collegiality and collaboration
- Ethics and integrity

Mission

The Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology educates professionals who serve persons with communication, swallowing, and balance disorders at the local, state, national, and international levels. The department is dedicated to excellence in:

- Teaching and lifelong learning in a student-centered environment
- Service in a patient-centered environment based on academic excellence, leadership, and the ethic of community responsibility
- Research that supports communication science and the practice of audiology and speech-language pathology

Goals

The Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology will continue to expand its influence as a dynamic, collaborative, and innovative consortium program by:

- Improving academic programs to attract outstanding students and promote intellectual development
- Engaging in service that strengthens our ties to the community, region, and state
- Strengthening research programs through scientific inquiry and scholarly endeavors

Strategies

The Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology has developed the following objectives and strategies for achieving these goals:



Goal 1

Improving academic programs that will attract outstanding students and promote intellectual development

Objectives

1. Establish a three-year mean of the change in capstone evaluation scores (post-test score minus pre-test score) for the undergraduate program and monitor performance for the remaining year.
2. Establish a three-year mean of the undergraduate student success ratio and track performance over the next two years. The undergraduate student success ratio is the number of undergraduate students that were either 1) accepted into graduate school, 2) wait-listed by a graduate program or 3) employed divided by the number of students polled.
3. Establish a three-year mean of the admissions ratio (number admitted by number of applicants) for the graduate clinical programs (Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology) and track performance over the next two years.
4. Establish a three-year mean of the completion rates (number students completed by the number of students that started) for the graduate clinical programs (Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology) and track performance over the next two years.
5. Establish a three-year mean of Graduate Record Examination (new scale) test scores (verbal and quantitative) of students admitted into the graduate clinical programs (Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology) and track performance over the next two years.
6. Monitor pass rate on the national praxis examination over the next five years as a measure of the quality of our clinical programs.

Strategies

1. The Department will annually update its recruitment plans and will provide faculty time and funds for student recruitment efforts (*e.g.*, materials, brochures, travel, time, *etc.*).
2. The Department will work with external sites to increase the amount of student funding available.
3. The Department will support faculty participation in continuing education activities designed to improve their teaching skills (*e.g.*, UAMS' Teaching

Scholars Program, UALR's Academy for Teaching and Learning Excellence, national and regional workshops, *etc.*).

4. The Department will provide travel funds for faculty to participate in continuing education activities to increase their discipline-specific knowledge and skills (*e.g.*, ASHA, AAA, *etc.*).

Goal 2 Providing services that improve the health and well-being of our community, state, region and nation

Objectives

1. Establish a three-year mean of the annual number of patient encounters for audiologic and speech-language pathology services through the UALR Speech and Hearing Clinic and monitor performance over the next two years.
2. Establish a three-year mean of the annual number of people receiving speech/language/hearing screening services provided by Department faculty/students and monitor performance over the next two years.
3. Establish a three-year mean of the annual number of department outreach activities (*e.g.*, technical assistance projects, consumer publications and consumer education events) and monitor performance over the next two years.

Strategies

1. The Department will develop a marketing strategy to increase the number of patients served by the UALR Speech and Hearing Clinic.
2. The Department will work closely with key community members to provide the region with high quality clinical services and professional expertise.
3. The Department will support faculty participation in community service and outreach activities.
4. The Department will explore development opportunities for professionals who serve individuals with communication disorders.

Goal 3 Strengthening research programs through scientific inquiry and scholarly endeavors

Objectives

1. Establish a three-year baseline of the annual number of external research grant awards and monitor this over the next two years.
2. Increase the annual number of manuscripts published in refereed journals from eight per year to twelve per year over the next five years.
3. Establish a three-year baseline of the annual number of faculty research presentations and monitor this over the next two years.
4. Increase the annual number of student research projects published from two per year to four per year over the next five years.
5. Establish a three-year baseline of the annual number of student research presentations and monitor over the next two years.

Strategies

1. The Department will maintain research laboratory space for each Ph.D. faculty member.
2. The Department will provide Ph.D. faculty with adequate time to do research.
3. The Department, with College and University support, will provide faculty with access to research support services (*i.e.*, statistical consultants, budget consultants, workshops, *etc*).
4. The Department will support faculty-student research by providing limited annual funding.

Assessment Timeline
This is a five-year plan. The Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology will collect data on each of these objectives and assess performance annually.