

*Department of Communication
Disorders*

Governors State University

Long-Term Strategic Plan
Fiscal Years 2009 – 2015

September 2, 2008

**Department of Communication Disorders
Long-Term Strategic Plan
Fiscal Years 2009-2015**

University/College Mission Statement	Program Mission
<p><u>University Mission Statement</u></p> <p>Governors State University is committed to offering an exceptional and accessible education that imbues students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to succeed in a global society. GSU is dedicated to creating an intellectually stimulating public square, serving as an economic catalyst for the region, and being a model of diversity and responsible citizenship.</p> <p><u>College of Health and Human Services Mission Statement</u></p> <p>The mission of the College of Health and Human Services is to provide accessible and quality health and human services professions education; foster a commitment to lifelong learning, scholarship, professional ethics, diversity, and social justice; and infuse its programs into the community partnerships for the health and well-being and economic development of the region.</p>	<p><u>Undergraduate Mission Statement</u></p> <p>The undergraduate program in Communication Disorders endorses the tenets of the mission statements of the University and of the College of Health and Human Services. The mission of the undergraduate program is to offer preprofessional education in communication sciences and disorders.</p> <p><u>Graduate Mission Statement</u></p> <p>The graduate program in Communication Disorders endorses the tenets of the mission statements of the University and of the College of Health and Human Services. The primary mission of the graduate program is to prepare students to work as speech-language pathologists in a variety of settings. The experiences provided by the program allow students to meet academic requirements for ASHA certification as well as standards for other relevant professional credentials (e.g., licensure and school certification). The program, therefore, maintains accreditation and approval necessary to achieve its mission. A related mission is to provide educational experiences to promote and support the maintenance of professional competence and credentials.</p>

Seven-Year Goals

University Goals	Program Goals
<p>I. <u>Academic Excellence</u></p> <p>Provide distinctive academic programs that effectively prepare students to become leaders and productive citizens in the global community.</p> <p>II. <u>High Quality Faculty and Staff</u></p> <p>Provide students access to a highly qualified, motivated, and diverse faculty and staff.</p> <p>III. <u>Continuous Process Improvement</u></p> <p>Develop and sustain a climate of continuous improvement that is defined by evidence-based decision-making focused on enriching the student experience.</p> <p>IV. <u>Visibility, Outreach, and Economic Catalyst</u></p> <p>Pursue initiatives that make GSU a preferred destination in the region, that create a vibrant public dialogue, and that increase the university's effectiveness as an economic catalyst in the region.</p> <p>V. <u>Social, Ethical, and Environmental Responsibility</u></p> <p>Build an institution that is socially, ethically, and environmentally responsible.</p> <p>VI. <u>Financial Growth and Sustainability</u></p> <p>Diversify GSU's revenue streams to ensure resources that are necessary for institutional growth and fiscal sustainability.</p>	<p><u>Undergraduate</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expand functions of the undergraduate program. 2. Facilitate use of technology by faculty in instruction. 3. Recruit and retain capable students. 4. Evaluate/revise the current curriculum. <p><u>Graduate</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recruit and retain capable students. 2. Foster student interest in research/scholarship and teaching in higher education. 3. Facilitate use of technology by faculty in instruction. 4. Evaluate/revise the current curriculum. 5. Expand functions of graduate program. 6. Increase clinical practicum opportunities. <p><u>Other</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a culture that encourages and supports research and scholarship. 2. Develop/enhance community collaborations and partnerships. 3. Improving program assessment and documentation processes.

Program Goals and Objectives.

Goals- Undergraduate	Objectives
1. Expand functions of the undergraduate program.	a. Determine feasibility of a minor and or certificate in Communication Disorders. b. Examine and adjust as necessary the curriculum to increase opportunities upon graduation (e.g., explore the effect on employability of including literacy within speech-language pathology in the curriculum. c. Explore ways of facilitating entry into the graduate program.
2. Facilitate use of technology by faculty in instruction.	a. Provide training/equipment/technical support for technology-based instruction. b. Revise course catalog descriptions to permit online offerings.
3. Recruit and retain capable students.	a. Re-evaluate undergraduate entrance requirements (e.g., minimum grades in select courses). b. Explore mechanisms for improving retention (e.g., faculty mentoring/seminar, peer tutoring, student review committee). c. Explore strategies for effective participation in recruitment activities at local high schools and community colleges.
4. Evaluate/revise the current curriculum.	a. Prepare students to meet the needs of an ever-changing profession. b. Coordinate and streamline the curriculum.

Program Goals and Objectives

Goals - Graduate	Objectives
1. Recruit and retain capable students	a. Explore feasibility of early admission for high-performing undergraduate CDIS students.
2. Foster student interest in research/scholarship and teaching in higher education.	a. Increase student participation in faculty scholarly and teaching activities. b. Seek interaction with programs that offer doctoral education. c. Build infrastructure for thesis completion. d. Increase number of student presentations external to the program (e.g., presentation of practicum projects at GSU Research Symposium, ISHA convention, ASHA convention).
3. Facilitate use of technology by faculty in Instruction.	a. Provide training/equipment/technical support for technology-based instruction. b. Revise course catalog descriptions to permit online offerings.
4. Evaluate/revise the current curriculum	a. Prepare students to meet the needs of an ever-changing profession. b. Coordinate and streamline the curriculum. c. Revise qualifying examinations.
5. Expand functions of graduate program	a. Explore feasibility of expanding continuing education offerings. b. Explore feasibility of offering clinical services to underserved communities, including prevention and community education (e.g., increase faculty and student service-related activities).
6. Increase clinical practicum opportunities.	a. Recruit and retain quality clinical field practicum supervisors (e.g., incentives, support, and communication). b. Develop GSU-based clinical opportunities.

Program Goals and Objectives

Goals – Other	Objectives
1. Develop a culture that encourages and supports research and scholarship	a. Increase communication among faculty regarding scholarly activities. b. Secure resources to support scholarly activity.
2. Develop/enhance community collaborations and partnerships.	a. Develop interdisciplinary collaborations at the Family Development Center (FDC). b. Reactivate the CDIS Advisory Board. c. Reactivate the CDIS Alumni Association.
3. Improving program assessment and documentation processes.	a. Develop program policy manual. b. Develop technology-based documentation procedures (e.g., Live Text). c. Review/revise course syllabi to ensure consistency with university template and ASHA standards/NCATE requirements. d. Continue to develop and implement program surveys every three years.