

**Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders
Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology
Strategic Plan Executive Summary**

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) at Pennsylvania Western (PW) University houses the undergraduate CSD program and the Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology (MS SLP) programs.

The mission of the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department is to provide a high quality, academic and clinical education which enables program graduates to become competent, fully credentialed speech-language pathologists serving the needs of the region, Commonwealth, and beyond.

Our vision is to:

- Provide progressive, innovative education in communication and swallowing disorders and differences to prepare the next generation of professionals to serve a culturally diverse, global society
- Provide the community access to high-quality clinical services that integrate theory, research, and interprofessional clinical practice
- Prepare students to become life-long learners
- Prepare students to contribute to both their profession and their community
- Prepare students to be critical appraisers and producers of research and integrate research principles into evidence-based clinical practice
- Prepare students to adhere to the highest standards of ethical practice and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion

During the 2021-2022 academic year, the new PW CSD faculty began drafting a revised strategic plan to be implemented in the integrated department. The revised plan, which was approved by full faculty vote on 9/1/2022, focuses on four main areas:

Students: We are a student-focused program. As such, our goal is to provide a curriculum and clinical experiences for our MS SLP students that ensure that they are meeting the knowledge and skills requirements to enter the profession. We also aim to offer students at all levels in the CSD department opportunities to engage in research and/or creative projects, engage in community activities, and become a global learner with an understating of the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion. By allowing students to participate in the growth and development of the department, we aim to recruit and retain students at all levels of the undergraduate and graduate programs.

Budget and Finance: Through support from our institution and outside funding sources, we aim to maintain the financial support needed to continue offering our university-based clinics, have the necessary academic and clinical materials available, and maintain a safe learning environment for our students and clinical environment for the community.



On-campus Speech and Hearing Centers: Each campus location maintains high quality clinical service for members of our community. The clinics allow our faculty to train students through direct clinical service provision (with appropriate supervision) and observations. We aim to build new partnerships with the community to enhance service delivery and expand the assessment/treatment/consultation options available to the community.

Faculty: Recruitment and retention of expert faculty is essential to student learning. We aim to have our faculty engage with the community and promote their achievements. We also aim to maintain a faculty who serve their profession through volunteer positions and their research/creative experience.