

WKU Communication Sciences and Disorders

Executive Summary: 2021-2028 Strategic Plan

Grounded in the broader university and college initiatives—**WKU’s “Climbing to Greater Heights”** and **College of Health and Human Services’ “Climbing Higher Together”**—The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) serves as both a mirror of our values and a map for our future.

The CSD 2021–2028 Strategic Plan reflects a continued commitment to students, innovation, and community engagement. Through this strategic plan, CSD reaffirms its mission to educate, serve, and lead—on the Hill, in our communities, and beyond. The following is a summary which captures the department’s aims with its seven-year strategic plan:

OUR STUDENTS

The department remains focused on student success:

- Continued investment in honors programming, student-engaged research, service, and community-based learning.

OUR HILL (Campus and Academic Excellence)

The department uses innovation and collaboration to guide campus-focused efforts:

- Successful accreditation site visit for the SLP program and ongoing curriculum improvements.
- Strengthened interdisciplinary relationships across the WKU community and related partners.
- Evaluation of the potential for support of a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) certification pathway through the CSD undergraduate program.
- Implementation of sustainable telepractice services in the Communication Disorders Clinic.
- Emphasis on faculty research, grant funding, and student involvement in research initiatives.
- Technology enhancements, including an online clinical recordkeeping system.

OUR COMMUNITY & BEYOND

The department actively fosters regional and global engagement:

- Continued growth of the Deaf Culture Series and ASL community outreach.
- Student engagement with disability inclusion initiatives.
- Expanded global learning and international service opportunities for students.
- Development of continuing education opportunities for professionals, alumni, and community partners.
- Clinical partnerships with local agencies to broaden clinical experiences and client variance.
- Efforts to enhance alumni involvement, including participation in WKU's CHHS Alumni Council.

Investing in the Future

The department is committed to sustainable growth and operational excellence:

- Plans to fill critical faculty and staff positions to maintain and enhance service and instruction.
- Development of an alumni engagement program to support clinical and academic initiatives.

CSD 2021-2028 Strategic Plan

The strategic plan serves as both a mirror and a map. As a mirror it reflects the values and mission of the university, the college, the department, and the programs. As a map it provides a guide for the decisions that are made and the supports that are provided. Our strengths, opportunities, aspirations, and resources were considered to develop the objectives which fall into the three categories that are aligned with the strategic plan of the college and university: Our Students, Our Hill, Our Community and Beyond.

WKU Strategic Plan : Climbing to Greater Heights	CHHS Strategic Plan: Climbing Higher Together	CSD Objective/Goal	Actions	Timeline/Date	Contact Person
OUR STUDENTS					
Affordability & Accessibility					
	Student-centered	Provide financial support for students	Seek external sources of funding	Starting 2022-23 AY	Department chair
Completion & Success					
	Student-centered	Continue and support the ASL Studies Peer Mentor Program to include upper level ASL courses.	Foster student leaders	Each semester	ASL Coordinator and Faculty

Climbing to Greater Heights- WKU Strategic Plan	CHHS Strategic Plan	Objective/Goal	Actions	Timeline/Date	Contact Person
OUR HILL					
Policies & Practices					
		Successfully prepare for and complete the Fall 2022 accreditation site visit for SLP program	Conduct self-study	Spring 2022-Fall 2022	All
	Interdisciplinary/ Interprofessional Approaches	Increase Interprofessional Opportunities	Continue and expand on current relationships at the UK Medical School, other CHHS and WKU programs	Ongoing	Program Coordinators, Ambassadors, Campus Clinical Education Coordinator, Department Chair
Sustainable Budget Model					
	Innovation	Educate faculty and staff about RCM/RAMP model and its impact	Offer workshops and presentations to the department	Fall 2022 - Ongoing	Department Chair
	Innovation	Strategically increase student credit hour production	Increase distance graduate program enrollment, offer some undergraduate courses as Colonnade, open admission to students not admitted to Pre-SLP	Ongoing	All

			classes		
A Culture of Innovation					
	Innovation	Convert undergraduate program to a Speech-Language Pathology Assistants Certification Program	Conduct study; obtain department, college, and curriculum committee approvals	Fall 2021 through Fall 2023	Undergraduate Program Director, Faculty and Staff
	Innovation	Serve a more active role around the campus to serve students	Provide screenings and services for specific programs or personnel who seek modification or expansion of communication skills	AY 2022-2023	Faculty
	Innovation	Develop and maintain a sustainable telepractice model of service delivery in the Communication Disorders Clinic	Obtain dedicated space, facilities, and equipment to fully implement a sustainable telepractice training model for student clinicians.		Campus Clinical Education Coordinator & Faculty
Research & Creative Activities					
	Innovation	Involve the Communication Disorders Clinic in research	Appointed a department research coordinator- Dr. Weiler	Fall 2022	Department Chair

	Innovation		Obtain funding for an online record keeping system for the CDC's client charts.	AY 2021-2022 Accomplished with implementation of Clinic Note	Department Chair
	Innovation	Department will support personnel seeking external funding	Annually apply for and seek personnel prep or research grant	Ongoing	Any faculty with support of research coordinator
	Innovation Student Centered	Continue to promote and support honors scholars in the development of clinical service projects, research, and other creative activities.	Seek new opportunities and continue service projects with a range of community organizations and agencies	Ongoing	Faculty

Climbing to Greater Heights- WKU Strategic Plan	CHHS Strategic Plan	Objective/Goal	Actions	Timeline/Date	Contact Person
OUR COMMUNITY & BEYOND					
A Regional Lighthouse					
	Community Engagement Student-centered Collaboration	Create, organize and increase attendance at the Deaf Culture Series presentations- presentation with Q&A of professionals who are Deaf, and/or work with the Deaf to showcase career opportunities for ASL students	Work with community leaders in the field of Deaf and Hard of Hearing services	Each semester	ASL Coordinator and Faculty
	Community Engagement Student-centered Collaboration	Continue to foster opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development and inclusive living for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities	Continue to welcome and encourage student involvement in the Best Buddies Student Organization at WKU.	Ongoing	Faculty Advisor
Global Learning					
	Student-centered Collaboration	Provide local and international opportunities for global learning.	Offer discipline-specific study abroad courses and collaborative international opportunities and education on immigrant and refugee communities.	Ongoing	Green
Continuing Education					

	Innovation	Respect continuing education and lifelong learning	Offer graduate courses and speech-language pathology workshops to the public, alumni and supervisors for CE credit	Three times annually	Continuing Education Committee
Quality of Life					
	Innovation	Expand external and internal clinical education opportunities to provide a wider range of clients and patient population	Foster collaborations with other WKU programs, community agencies and organizations	Ongoing	Clinical Faculty, Externship Coordinator, Campus Clinical Education Coordinator
Athletic Excellence					
	Student-centered	Increase opportunities to interpret the National Anthem at WKU events	Recruit ASL students to learn, practice and perform the National Anthem	Ongoing	ASL Coordinator and Faculty
Alumni Ambassadors					

	Community Engagement Collaboration	Increase alumni engagement.	Develop a CSD-focused alumni group. Establish a donor program for alumni and community partners to support the CDC.	Ongoing	Graduate Program Director, Distance Graduate Program Director, Undergraduate Program Director, Campus Clinical Education Coordinator We need a alumni rep on the CHHS alumni council
Investing in the Future					
	Innovation	Support initiatives and current needs of the department	Request to fill current unfilled positions 1.) Office associate – (externship coord). 2.) Office associate – (Clinic Operations) 3.) Clinical Faculty Line 4.) Tenure Track Faculty Line – (Graduate Program) 5.) Clinic Director (full-time again?)	AY 2021-2022	Dept Chair, Faculty and Staff