

Department of Communication Disorders & Sciences Strategic Plan: 2022 – 2027

Executive Summary

Guided by the Mission and Vision of the Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences, the development of which was directly informed by the Mission and Vision Statements of Rush University Medical Center, Rush University, and the College of Health Sciences, the CDS Strategic Plan builds on our legacy to provide outstanding graduate education in audiology and speech-language pathology. A department-wide effort was used to create this Strategic Plan and will be required to achieve full implementation. Using a bottom-up approach, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats were identified to guide us in developing goals that would allow us to achieve our Vision.

Successful implementation of the Strategic Plan requires the energy, creativity, and commitment of the CDS faculty. Through consistent oversight of the Plan and an unwavering commitment to the strategic goals outlined in this plan, CDS will achieve our Vision of being recognized as offering the programs of choice for graduate education in audiology and speech-language pathology. An executive summary of the Strategic Plan follows.

Rush University Medical Center (RUMC) Mission Statement: The mission of Rush is to improve the health of the individuals and diverse communities we serve through the integration of outstanding patient care, education, research and community partnerships.

Rush University Medical Center (RUMC) Vision Statement: Rush will be the leading academic health system in the region and nationally recognized for transforming health care.

Rush University (RU) Mission Statement: RUSH University champions a learning environment in health and biomedical sciences through collaboration, education, research and equity for our students, faculty, staff and the communities we serve.

Rush University (RU) Vision Statement: RUSH University is a model for improving health through innovative research and transformative education in a culture of excellence and equity.

College of Health Sciences (CHS) Mission Statement: The mission of the College of Health Sciences is to advance the quality and availability of health care through excellence in education, research and scholarship, service and patient care. The College promotes the values of diversity, access and inclusion in all of its endeavors.

College of Health Sciences (CHS) Vision Statement: The College of Health Sciences at Rush University will be a world class school of allied health sciences whose programs are recognized as among the best in the United States.

Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences Mission Statement: The Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences at Rush University Medical Center integrates outstanding graduate education, superior patient care, excellence in research and scholarship, and service to diverse communities.

Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences Vision Statement: The clinical and graduate education programs of the Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences will be recognized as among the best in the United States.

Core Values: Innovation, Collaboration, Accountability, Respect, Excellence (ICARE)

Goal #1: To advance Excellence in Education, the department will enhance and increase clinical education opportunities for students

Objective 1: To expand SCOPE speech, cognitive-linguistic, hearing, and swallowing services offered in person or via telehealth by initiating (1) pediatric and adult amplification services by the end of 2022, (2) adult SLP services (speech/language/cognitive/swallowing) by the end of 2022, and (3) pediatric feeding therapy services by the end of 2024.

Objective 2: To increase outreach opportunities in person and via telehealth by expanding or initiating (1) three additional hearing, speech/language/cognitive, and fall-risk screenings in communities with underserved and at-risk populations and (2) international outreach programs for hearing and speech services in collaboration with Rush Global Health.

Objective 3: To expand simulated learning experiences, including increasing the use of standardized patients, integrating software- and technology-based tools, peer-to-peer modeling, and cross-program peer-to-peer evaluations by the end of 2023.

Goal #2: To increase our Excellence in Research and Scholarship, the department will expand both the breadth and visibility of faculty and student research, scholarly works, and service efforts

Objective 1: To support ongoing and future programs in SCOPE focused on providing high-quality speech, cognitive-linguistic, hearing, and swallowing services to under-resourced communities by developing an extensive database that will provide (1) objective data to support fundraising and philanthropic requests, (2) a subject pool to promote investigations focused on underserved communities, and (3) direction for development of additional service programs.

Objective 2: To develop and disseminate case-based educational materials that emphasize best practices, the teacher-practitioner model, and faculty expertise in diagnostic and rehabilitative procedures and approaches.

Objective 3: To enhance visibility of student and faculty research by (1) increasing the number of student presentations in state, national, and international conferences by 15% and (2) creating and distributing an annual CDS Research Newsletter.