

**University of North Dakota: Mission Statement**

The University of North Dakota, as a member of the North Dakota University System, serves the state, the country, and the world community through teaching, research, creative activities, and service. State-assisted, the University's work depends also on federal, private, and corporate sources. With other research universities, the University shares a distinctive responsibility for the discovery, development, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge. Through its sponsorship and encouragement of basic and applied research, scholarship, and creative endeavor, the University contributes to the public well-being.

The University maintains its original mission in liberal arts, business, education, law, medicine, engineering and mines; and has also developed special missions in nursing, fine arts, aerospace, energy, human resources, and international studies. It provides a wide range of challenging academic programs for undergraduate, professional and graduate students through the doctoral level. The University encourages students to make informed choices, to communicate effectively, to be intellectually curious and creative, to commit themselves to lifelong learning and the service of others, and to share responsibility both for their own communities and for the world. The University promotes cultural diversity among its students, staff and faculty. In addition to its on-campus instructional and research programs, the University of North Dakota separately and cooperatively provides extensive continuing education and public service programs for all areas of the state and region.

(Updated August 1, 2012)

### **Communication Sciences and Disorders: Mission Statement**

The mission of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) is to meet the needs of the University of North Dakota (UND) and its surrounding community in the discipline of communication sciences and disorders, especially in the area of speech-language pathology. Specifically, the mission of CSD is (1) to provide academic and clinical instruction, supervised clinical practica, and research experiences for undergraduate and graduate-level students; (2) to conduct research with the aim of contributing to the body of knowledge concerning communication processes and communication disorders; (3) to provide clinical services to individuals, groups, and agencies within North Dakota and the region; (4) to participate in the governance of the College of Arts and Sciences (A&S) and the University; and (5) to provide professional leadership within local, state and national organizations.

The strategic plan of the department will be organized within the framework of the *Exceptional UND* strategic priorities.

### **Exceptional UND #1: Enrich the student experience**

*An education founded on the liberal arts prepares students for a lifetime of success. Exceptional UND enriches the student experience by providing an environment that is challenging yet rewarding, and full of resources and opportunities to prepare the next generation of leaders.*

#### **Goal 1.1. Enrich students' learning experiences.**

Objectives:

- O: 1.1a. Increase opportunities for student research experience.
- O: 1.1b. Review the master's curriculum relative to ASHA's current scope of practice and coverage of knowledge and skill competencies.

Strategies:

- S: 1.1a. Faculty members will encourage students to consider writing an undergraduate and/or master's thesis.
- S: 1.1b. The curriculum will be reviewed biannually and necessary changes will be made accordingly to be consistent with developments in the field.
- S: 1.1c. All faculty members will facilitate the use of case-based teaching and learning (CBL) across the curriculum and support the use of scholarly evidence in all aspects of clinical service.
- S: 1.1d. Students should be adequately informed and educated about the clinical training benefits of serving all populations that require our services.

### **Exceptional UND #2: Facilitate collaboration**

*Every collaboration helps us grow. That's why Exceptional UND enhances support for interdisciplinary teaching, cutting-edge global research, teamwork, and creative activity. Exceptional UND promotes innovative and productive collaboration among all sectors of the university community, from interdisciplinary academic programs to extracurricular activities,*

*and supports close partnerships with state leaders to serve the public. By working together, we build an Exceptional UND.*

**Goal 2.1. Increase communication.**

Objectives:

- O: 2.1a. Increase interactions between the clinic and research faculty.
- O: 2.1b. Increase participation in activities of governing bodies such as ASHA and CAA/CAPCSD.

Strategies:

- S: 2.1a. Establish specialty clinics that will allow students, clinic faculty, and research faculty to collaboratively design effective, evidence-based assessment and treatment programs. These specialty clinics will have the added benefit of creating and supporting department-wide clinical research programs. Discussions of clinical cases (similar to grand rounds) will occur in front of all graduate students in organized presentations, such as during noon meeting, to support students' clinical education.
- S: 2.1b. Designated faculty development days will occur each semester. These will support communication and collaboration across faculty members.
- S: 2.1c. The department chair, or a faculty representative selected by the chair, will attend the annual conference sponsored by the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CAPCSD) each year and will share the information amongst other faculty.
- S: 2.1d. At least one faculty representative from the Department of CSD will attend the annual ASHA convention. While at the convention, the faculty member will attend at least one session discussing issues related to higher education and/or clinical supervision and will share the information amongst other faculty.

**Exceptional UND #3: Expand UND's presence**

*Our reach extends beyond campus. Exceptional UND promotes a vibrant relationship with the Grand Cities by partnering with community organizations, fostering creative endeavors, and extending academic programs. We work to meet the socioeconomic needs of North Dakota and extend our presence through initiatives which enhance our regional, national, and international exposure.*

**Goal 3.1. Increase community awareness and expand access to clinical services.**

Objectives:

- O: 3.1a. Seek opportunities to expand clinical services to the community.

Strategies:

- S: 3.1a. Identify activities/functions to attend to increase community awareness of university clinic services. These activities could be tied to specific time periods, such as Better Speech and Hearing Month in May. Students and faculty could visit various entities, such as preschools, parent groups, senior centers, nursing homes, support

groups, rotary club, etc. and provide brief educational seminars about the field and our clinic's services. Free screenings could be provided, along with interpretations of the outcomes. Current preschool screenings could be enhanced with an additional parent/teacher educational component.

***Goal 3.2. Increase alumni outreach efforts.***

Objectives:

O: 3.2a. Strengthen departmental relationships with CSD alumni.

Strategies:

S: 3.2a. Invite former graduates to share their clinical experiences with the undergraduate and graduate students and faculty.

S: 3.2b. Invite alumni to special workshops offered by the department of CSD.

S: 3.2c. Use social media to inform current students and alumni about the activities in the department.

D: 3.2d. Develop and maintain an alumni contact email and phone list.