DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS
STRATEGIC PLAN 2015
Contact Person: Manish K. Rami, Chair, CSD

PRIORiTy 1: Provide a quality curriculum with a solid liberal arts foundation to prepare students for rich, full lives, productive careers, and civic leadership.

Background: The department has either reorganized courses or created new courses for the undergraduate and graduate curriculum in recent years. Hence, actions here are limited. However, the department’s existing capstone course will need revision.

Goal 1: To revise the 3 semester credit CSD capstone course.

Action 1: With the help of faculty members, the chair will revise the existing CSD course. This course will meet the requirements of the essential studies rubric for written communication. The plan is to offer a revised CSD capstone course in the spring semester of 2016.

PRIORiTy 2: Expand and strengthen the university’s commitment to research and creative activity, both as a means of enriching the learning environment and as a driver of economic development.

Background: The department has had few students who pursue an undergraduate thesis. The department has one doctoral student at this time. One faculty member has external support for research activity.

Goal 1: To continue to increase opportunities for undergraduate research experience.

Action 1: The faculty members will encourage junior students enrolled in CSD 333, CSD 343, and CSD 434 to consider an undergraduate research experience.

Action 2: The chair will raise funds to support undergraduate research experiences for CSD majors. The chair will approach the university as well as alumni for this purpose.

Goal 2: To increase the number of Ph.D. students.

Action 1: The department will publicize its doctoral program on its Web site. Faculty members will be encouraged to recruit applicants for the doctoral program locally via word of mouth and nationally at the annual convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in 2015.

Goal 3: To increase external funding for research projects.

Action 1: The chair will request that all graduate faculty members who are not funded submit or resubmit at least one external grant application every other year.

PRIORiTy 3: Serve the people of North Dakota and the region more effectively through the department’s academic programs, its clinic, as well as through applied and basic research.
Background: Through the UND Speech, Language, and Hearing Clinic, the department serves the residents of Greater Grand Forks and Eastern North Dakota. Its clinic offers special programs for children, such as the Toddler Language Circle and the Language and Literacy groups, and for adults, such as the Performance and Recovery in Stroke group. The department hosts four cleft palate clinics per year, which brings clients to UND from the entire state as well as from Northwestern Minnesota. It hosts an annual colloquium and co-hosts an annual symposium, both of which help professionals in the area acquire knowledge and skills regarding emerging best clinical practices. Its master’s students provide services in clinic placements in schools, hospitals, and rehabilitation centers in the region. Given this rich assortment of existing service activities additional, actions here are limited.

Goal 1: Seek opportunities to provide services to external agencies.

Action 1: The faculty will strive to identify and provide services for unserved or underserved external agencies including schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and other agencies.

PRIORITY 4: Enhance donations to the department.

Background: There are three endowed funds at this time. Proceeds from two of these funds are for scholarships to students, while the third fund allows for more flexibility in its use. Donations from alumni are significant but inconsistent.

Goal 1: Develop a systematic alumni donation program

Action: The department will publish a blog to engage its graduates with the activities in the department and request their support. Additionally and in association with the Alumni Foundation and the College of Arts & Sciences, the chair will develop a fund-raising plan and implement it by spring 2017.

PRIORITY 5: In support of all of the above, ensure that the University has a well-prepared, enthusiastic faculty and staff, first-rate physical facilities, an adequate financial base, and appropriate and efficient organization.

Background: The department and its instructional space, including its clinic, continue to exist in its original quarters, where it has been housed since 1967. An upgraded clinic space will make possible the expansion of services and thus an increase in the clinic’s revenues. An improved facility will also help the department recruit better students.

Goal 1. To obtain a larger, better appointed, more accessible, department space.

Action: The chair will continue to maintain an awareness of the need for a better space at the level of the college and the university.