

CDIS Strategic Plan Summary 2022

Strategic Domain 1: Speech-Language Pathologist Personnel Shortages in Nebraska

Goal: As one of the University of Nebraska's three master's degree SLP programs (UNK: Kearney, UNL: Lincoln; UNO: Omaha), we will develop and implement strategies over time to alleviate the shortage of Speech-Language Pathologists in Nebraska generally, and more particularly in rural Nebraska communities.

1. Maintained enrollment numbers 15-20 students per cohort
2. Maintained internship placement agreements within and out of state to provide placements for graduate students. 100% of students had internships in school and clinically based placements 2021-2022
3. Employment opportunities are posted to students via Canvas.
4. CDIS has partnered with the UNK Admissions team to educate recruiters about the program and provide them with updated recruitment materials.
5. UNK Admissions team works with CDIS to ensure highly qualified candidates meet with program representatives on campus or via zoom to answer programmatic questions. 20 visits conducted last year
6. CDIS program has had two public relations that involved local media both (print and television) that promoted the Ritecare Clinic Telepractice and one university spotlight highlighting the program.
7. CDIS Advisory Board was established and held its first meeting on January 26, 2022.
8. First CDIS online master's degree cohort was admitted (19 students) in the Fall of 2021. The second cohort began in the Fall of 2022 (21 students)

Strategic Domain 2: Resources

Goal: The Department of Communication Disorders will effectively petition the university administration to maintain adequate budgetary funding and other resources to assure that ongoing essential needs of the Program are met over time, including adequate faculty, staff, graduate assistantships, physical facilities, operating funds, library resources, capital equipment, and technology. The Department will also seek supplemental funding both from within the University (e.g., Priority Program funding; intramural research grants) and from outside sources as appropriate.

- 1-2. CDIS program has met regularly with the Dean of the College of Education and the Dean of Graduate Studies to discuss shortages and the rationale for the online program. Both Deans encouraged and support the residential and online programs. Thus, the program hired an online coordinator, an additional clinical supervisor, and tenure track position.
3. The department chair meets monthly with the College of Education Dean to discuss enrollment, budgets, and to strategize for the future.
4. CDIS faculty have been very productive in grant applications and funding. Two new grants have been awarded and partnerships within the NU system continue to increase.

Strategic Domain 3: Quality Improvement Through Effective Assessment

Goal: The Department of Communication Disorders will maintain compliance over time with the University's Annual Assessment Plan and Report mandate. Quality enhancement efforts will be data based and collaborative.

1. Student Outcomes data for Praxis pass rates, program completion rates and employment rates all meet bench markers of 80% or higher. Please see program website for details.
2. Data from Alumni and Employers is collected on an annual basis and the results of surveys are discussed at annual faculty retreat in the fall and during monthly faculty meetings. The data from both surveys were used to initiate the proposals of the online program and content in the professional issues (exercises for students to locate information about certification) and dysphagia classes (purchase of new equipment to add FEES lab in the course)

Strategic Domain 4: Accreditation and professional standards compliance.

Goal: The Program will devise and implement appropriate strategies and practices to maintain compliance with the following administrative, accreditation, credentialing, and other professional standards and policies over time

1. All accreditation and university and state policies are followed and accreditation maintained

Strategic Domain 5: Program Faculty

Goal: Program faculty will demonstrate maintained competency and achievement in Teaching, Scholarship, Professional service and/or other assigned duties; all will hold current Nebraska Licensure and Certificate(s) of Clinical Competence (ASHA/CCC) and comply with the standards required to obtain and retain them; the Program will remain committed to hire and retain qualified doctoral level faculty; faculty will be provided with institutional and administrative support, information and resources to facilitate their ongoing success including eventual attainment of tenure and/or advancement in rank as appropriate to the individual's assignments.

1. New tenure track line was added, and the position is filled beginning Fall 2022.
2. Revision of the mission and vision statements will begin in the Fall of 2022.
3. CDIS research faculty are active researchers and maintained .25 release time for research.
4. Student research is on the rise. Two students are part of the summer student research program, 6 students presented their projects at UNK Research Day.
5. CDIS Faculty had taken part in continuing education and annual review process to ensure they are maintaining skills and knowledge at a cutting edge level. Four CDIS faculty were awarded promotion in the Spring of 2022.