

Draft Copy of CMD Strategic Plan

2018-2022

All program strategic goals presented are nested within the overall goals of the academic strategic plan of the university as follows.

URI ACADEMIC PLAN GOAL 1: Enhance student success. This includes transforming undergraduate and graduate student learning and academic support through pedagogical approaches focused on engaging students, experiential learning opportunities, and timely completion of undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Strategic Goal 1: Expand problem-based learning activities for undergraduate and graduate students

Action Step 1: Incorporate Simucase (and other Internet programs for problem-based learning) into the undergraduate and graduate curriculum

Action Step 2: Utilize audio-visual recording and server storage technologies available to the URI Speech & Hearing Center to record clinical sessions that undergraduate and graduate students can access to help them develop frameworks for assessment and intervention

Action Step 3: Continue to support and develop undergraduate and graduate student training in state-of-the art technologies (such as the LENA lab for language sample capture, transcription and analysis) for understanding communication disorders and better preparing students for professional service delivery

Strategic Goal 2: Increase opportunities for inter-professional education (IPE)

Action Step 1: Provide IPE opportunities by collaborating with Kinesiology, Physical Therapy, Psychology, Nutrition & Food Sciences, and other intra- and extra-collegial departments through the development of on-campus, specialty clinics for graduate students that can be organized in a vertical structure to include undergraduate students

Action Step 2: Work with the academic health collaborative at URI to identify IPE opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students across the state of Rhode Island

Action Step 3: Work with the College of Health Sciences as well as the Academic Health Collaborative to develop and implement IPE coursework experiences for both undergraduate and graduate students

Strategic Goal 3: Expand the number of external clinical placement sites and their timely access for graduate students in CMD

Action Step 1: Continue to develop and recruit external placement sites

Action Step 2: Develop a process whereby graduate students are notified of their external placements at least one month before the end of the previous semester to provide opportunities for adequate preparation, for the experience

Strategic Goal 4: Enhance infrastructure to support clinical training of students

Action Step 1: Develop resources of department to train students in telehealth service delivery for populations with communication disorders

Strategic Goal 5: Increase learning experiences that expand workforce opportunities

Action Step 1: Develop certificate program to prepare graduate students (and others already out in the workforce) to deliver language learning services to individuals with dyslexia and autism

Action Step 2: Determine the feasibility of developing a training program for undergraduates to prepare them as hearing aid specialists in the private sector

URI ACADEMIC PLAN GOAL 2: Expand research, scholarship and creative work that addresses state, regional, and world challenges to improve health, environmental sustainability, economic development, and the human experience.

Strategic Goal 1: Support faculty efforts to generate and disseminate new knowledge with respect to the nature of communication disorders and the effectiveness of clinical assessment and intervention practices

Action Step 1: Provide faculty with funds to support workload reassignment time to conduct research, submit grants and disseminate the findings of their work

Action Step 2: Provide faculty funding for travel that supports research, grant submission and the dissemination of their scholarship

Strategic Goal 2: Provide adequate student research assistance to support faculty needs

Action Step 1: Provide faculty with funds to support student research assistants and track the outcomes of this support

Strategic Goal 3: Foster development of doctoral student pool to support the research productivity of the faculty

Action Step 1: Support doctoral training through collaboration with Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program (INP)—determine feasibility of housing the INP in the College of Health Sciences where CMD is currently located

Action Step 2: Participate in the planning and implementation of an interdisciplinary PhD in Health Sciences to be housed within the College of Health Sciences that would attract doctoral students in communication disorders

URI ACADEMIC PLAN GOAL 3: Grow a global presence by advancing the internationalization of the university, developing students as engaged global citizens, and creating meaningful strategic partnerships

Strategic Goal 1: Create international learning opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students in Communicative Disorders

Action Step 1: Increase international opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students to study communication disorders and assessment and intervention practices by building upon pre-established relationships already developed within the university (e.g. Guatemala, Indonesia, etc.)

Strategic Goal 2: Increase program visibility at state, national and international levels

Action Step 1: Disseminate written materials highlighting program and department (e.g. Gateway Cafe, LOUD CROWD, Aphasia Reading Group, Dyslexia clinic, LENA lab) at state, national and international levels

Action Step 2: Create partnerships that highlight the program and department (e.g., a certificate program in reading, dyslexia and communication disorders in partnership with the state of Rhode Island that can then be offered to a national and international audience)

Action Step 3: Create opportunities for international students, officials and service providers to observe our program in communication disorders, including the Speech & Hearing Center

Action Step 4: Consult with appropriate international stakeholders with respect to implementing various aspects of the program in communication disorders if feasible and appropriate

URI ACADEMIC PLAN GOAL 5: Streamline processes to improve institutional effectiveness

Strategic Goal 1: Streamline the process for applying to CMD's graduate program to increase the applicant pool

Action Step 1: Determine feasibility of interfacing URI's graduate school application process with the Central Application System process used nationally by the majority of programs in communication disorders

Action Step 2: If feasible, then move to CAS application system for graduate students in speech-language pathology

Strategic Goal 2: Enhance ability of undergraduates to earn their degrees in 4 years or less

Action Step 1: Continue to enhance undergraduate advising process so that students earn their degrees in a timely manner

Strategic Goal 3: Ensure timely progression through the 5-year, accelerated B.S./M.S. program. that ensures timely progression through the program and success in obtaining the M.S. degree in speech-language pathology.

Action Step 1: Make sure that undergraduate students receive appropriate advising early in the student careers so they can get tracked into the accelerated program efficiently, including the application process for the graduate program at the end of the junior year.