

**Strategic Plan and Program Data
Department of Speech Pathology & Audiology
2008-2013**

I Mission Statement

The general mission of the Department of Speech Pathology & Audiology is three-fold:

- To provide high quality educational programs for the BS, MS, and Ph.D. degrees.
- To provide high quality research productivity in the area of communication science and disorders.
- To provide high quality clinical services to the communicatively-impaired population of the region and state.

II Program Data for 2004-2008

Doctoral Program Graduation Rate

During the last four years, six full-time doctoral students were in training. Three have completed the degree and one has been advanced to candidacy. This reflects a graduation rate of 67%.

Master's Program Graduation Rate

During the last four years, 72 master's students were in training. Sixty-seven have completed the degree, reflecting a 93% graduation rate.

PRAXIS (National) Examination in Speech Pathology and Audiology

The passing rate over the last four years has been 100%.

Employment of Graduates

Employment rate for all graduate students seeking employment has been 100%.

Faculty Research

In the past four years, the faculty has published 17 refereed articles in scientific journals and presented more than 20 refereed research papers.

Graduate Student Research

Graduate students have generated 18 theses/dissertations. Thirteen have resulted in refereed publications and/or presentations.

Undergraduate Student Research

One Senior Honors Thesis has been generated.

Claude I. Howard Speech and Hearing Clinic

The clinic generates approximately 3,000 client visits per year. The Department continues to house the Northern Nevada Cleft Palate Clinic. A new multidisciplinary Autism Assessment Team has been established. The Autism

clinic meets on a monthly basis and provides diagnostic services for the community. The AAC Lab has received grant funding for updated software and hardware. Software purchases include: Board Maker, Wright out Loud, Writing with Symbols, and eight Dyno-Vox Systems. Two of the pediatric diagnostic rooms have been equipped with digital recording capabilities in order to enhance the diagnostic process, facilitate student learning, and provide an avenue for student and faculty presentations and research.

III. Strategic Objectives

Student Enrollment

There has been a shortage of speech-language pathologists in Nevada for many years and the trend continues as the population of Nevada increases and ages. According to the December, 2000 Report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there were 15.5 speech-language pathologists and audiologists in Nevada per 100,000 population, which is about one-half the national average of 32.7. In 2006, the Bureau of Labor Statistics employment projections indicated that the national growth rate for speech-language pathology jobs would increase 11% creating “excellent job opportunities” for speech-language pathologists. The Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation projects a growth rate of 41% in the State of Nevada from 2004 to 2014. Many surrounding states, such as Arizona, New Mexico, Idaho, and California, were reported to also have a high rate of job growth. The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association also reports that there are critical shortages of speech-language pathologists and audiologists in many rural areas. The Department should maintain efforts to sustain enrollment in all degree programs.

Maintain Research Productivity

Research productivity has been high. Faculty should continue collaborative research efforts and continue to involve both undergraduate and graduate students in research activities. Continue efforts to secure extramural funding.

Develop Computer-Based Clinical Management System

The Department should incorporate additional technology into clinical administration, management, and supervisor-student interaction. For example, computer-based client registration and scheduling; computer based record keeping, and chart storage and computer integrated student reporting.

Increasing Use of Educational Technology in the Classroom and Clinic

A major mission of the Department focuses on the clinical training of our graduate students. This effort requires a substantial faculty commitment to developing increasingly more specialized clinical programs that reflect current needs and future trends. This mission may be enhanced by utilizing current technology available and by expanding with innovations as the opportunities become available.

