1. Goal and Rationale

The Communication Sciences and Disorders program is seeking departmental status. Departmental status would closely align us with top tier universities; the top Communication Sciences and Disorders programs are in departments and all of our regional competitors for the MA and PhD program are in departments. Departmental status would also clearly demonstrate to our MA accreditation agency (Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech Language Pathology) of our independence in governance, tenure and promotion, curriculum, hiring, and admission decisions.

Since its establishment in 2013, the Communication Sciences program has developed a Master’s program in Speech-Language Pathology and a PhD in Communication Sciences. The MA program attracts over 200 applicants a year and has graduated two cohorts; all of which have passed the Praxis Exam in Speech-Language Pathology and are employed. Our doctoral program, established in 2018, has 9 doctoral students who are completing highly interdisciplinary program focusing on communication disorders in children and adults. Our program has attracted 3 post-doctoral students . The faculty consists of 11, highly interdisciplinary and research-active faculty members, who focus on basic and applied research in the area of communication and its disorders. Our teaching and research facilities at the STAR campus are state-of-the-art.

The mission of the Communication Sciences and Disorders program is:

* To educate the next generation of clinicians and researchers engaged in the management of individuals with communication disorders;
* To advance our understanding of the nature and management of communication disorders; and
* To provide high quality services to individuals with communication disorders.

We achieve our goals through our MA, PHD/Postdoc, and Research programs. **gram in Speech-**

* MA Program

Prepare MA students in Speech-Language Pathology who:

* + Use a systematic and logical approach in their assessment and treatment of individuals with communication and swallowing disorders across the lifespan,
	+ Base their decision-making on research evidence, clients’ values and beliefs, ethical standards, and the constraints of the clinical settings, and
	+ Possess the knowledge and skills to deliver services effectively and efficiently.
* **Doctoral and Post-Doctoral program**

Provide students with the breadth and depth of knowledge necessary to become independent scholars, educators, and leaders for the future.

* Research Program

Advance our understanding of the nature and management of communication disorders.

Conduct state-of-the-art basic, translational, and clinical research in the areas of communication sciences and disorders.

Broadly disseminate findings to academics, practitioners, and policy- makers.

1. History (sections: early formation, transition and current place in UD’s tapestry)

# During the summer of 2012, the State of Delaware Governor’s Office provided CHS Dean Kathy Matt with $200,000 to support the planning of an M.A. in Speech-Language Pathology. During the fall of 2012, CHS Deputy Dean Susan Hall and Professor Beth Mineo (CoE) held on-campus meetings with professors from other institutions with established graduate programs in speech-language pathology. With considerable input from multiple constituents, Hall and Mineo developed the Program Policy Statement, Senate Resolution, and Academic Approval form for the proposed degree program. The proposal was approved by the College Curriculum Committee on January 14, 2013.

The University Faculty Senate approved the curriculum for the proposed program at its meeting on April 8, 2013. On October 7, 2013, the Faculty Senate approved a five-year provisional status for an M.A. in Speech-Language Pathology. In order to reflect the nomenclature used by the majority of programs in the country, the program name was officially changed from Speech-Language Pathology to Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSCD) on March 2, 2015. No change was made to the name of the M.A. degree. On February 5, 2018, the PhD in Communication Sciences and Disorders was approved by the Faculty Senate. On May 2019, the MA degree in Speech-Language Pathology was awarded permanent status by the Faculty Senate.

In July 2014, Dr. Aquiles Iglesias was hired as the Founding Director of the program. The accreditation application was submitted to the Council on Academic Accreditation in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (CAA) on March 22, 2015, site visit occurred in Dec 2015, and Accreditation Candidacy status was awarded in February 2016. Candidacy status is awarded to any newly developed entry-level graduate degree program that meets all institutional and programmatic eligibility requirements. The program will be site visited for full accreditation in October 2019, with expected full accreditation February 2020.

The first class MA class enrolled in the fall of 2016 and graduated in May 2018. Since its inception, the program has accepted four cohorts and will be accepting its fifth cohort in the spring of 2020. To date, 48 students have graduated from the MA program in Speech-Language Pathology. The PhD program accepted its first group of doctoral students in August 2018. At present, 9 Ph.D students and 3 Postdocs are enrolled in our program.

1. Program Description (sections: Faculty/Staff, Curriculum, Study Abroad, Students/Enrollment, Placement of Graduates, Non-Academic Programs and Community Outreach, etc.)

The program consists of 11 faculty members (Chugani, Chow, Cohen, Earle, Iglesias, Morini, Owens Van Horne, Pompon, Sheng, Usler, and Verdolini). In addition, the MA program has a Director of Clinical Education (Truluck), a Director of Research and Clinical Services (Cook), two full-time clinical supervisors (Lucas and McCauley), and 20 part-time clinical supervisors. Some of the MA clinical seminars are taught by adjunct faculty members.

The MA curriculum is a 60 s.h., two-year program. Students receive academic and clinical training throughout. During the first year, students receive clinical training at the UD Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic. In their second year, students rotate across two distinct externship sites (pediatric and adults). The program receives approximately 220 applications per year for a maximum of 30 matriculated students. Enrollment for the last 4 Cohorts has been (26, 22, 26, and 27). All students have completed the program within the expected time frame. The pass rate on the PRAXIS EXAM in Speech-Language Pathology is 100 percent. Ninety-eight percent of the graduates are employed in a variety of settings (schools, hospitals, clinics) and states (35 percent in Delaware)

The doctoral program consists of a minimum of 54 s.h. Students complete a specified series of courses within the CSCD program, statistic sequence, and coursework in cognate area based on research interests. All students are expected to be actively involved in research labs throughout their studies.

1. Research Focus

The research conducted in CSCD focuses on basic and applied research dealing with normal and disordered communication. Research areas include the following: Acquired Neurological Illness/Injury, Bilingual Language Development Fluency Disorders, Language Disorders in Children Memory Consolidation, Motor Speech Disorders, Neurodevelopmental Disorders, Patient Outcomes, Speech Perception, and Voice Disorders. Faculty research is funded by UDRF, NIH (NIA, NIDCD), NSF, IES, and various Foundations (American Speech-Language Hearing Foundation, Gordon and Betty White Foundation, and Spencer Foundation).

1. Financial and Space Resources (sections: budgetary requirements, controlled space, etc.)

No additional resources/funds are required.

The program, located on the STAR Campus, consists of the UD Speech-Language Hearing Clinic, 11 faculty offices, a classroom, 30 workstations for research assistants, doctoral/post-doctoral students and staff, 8 laboratories, and 5 assessment rooms.

1. National and Regional Landscape (sections: Demand/Competitive Factors, Aspirant, Peer and Regional Universities comparison)

There are a total of 80 institutions in the United States granting a research doctorate degree in Communication Sciences and 277 granting an MA degree. All of the top 20 ranked institutions (US News and World Report) are in departments. Based on Academic Analytic rankings of Scholarly Research Productivity, only one of the top 20 programs in Communication Sciences (The University of Delaware) is not a department.

There are eight Communication Sciences and Disorders departments in the region, with two (University of Maryland and Temple University) offering both a Master’s and a PhD in Communication Sciences.

1. Impacts of Departmental Status (sections: curricular, Future Planning, etc.)

Departmental status would make our existing program comparable to the majority of Communication Sciences and Disorders programs in the country. It will eliminate confusion and need for constant clarification to accreditation agency (Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology) as to our status within the university. It will also eliminate confusion among applicants to our Master’s and Doctoral Programs.

1. Conclusion (section: Approvals from College)

This proposal has unanimous support of all faculty members in Communication Sciences and Disorders and the Dean of the College of Health Sciences.