



---

**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PLANNING AND REVIEW**

13-14 CAPR 24  
June 3, 2014

**TO:** The Academic Senate

**FROM:** The Committee on Academic Planning Review (CAPR)

**SUBJECT:** 13-14 CAPR 24: Five-Year Program Review of Communicative Sciences and Disorders CSD

**PURPOSE:** For Action by the Senate

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Acceptance of the 2011-2012 Five-Year Program Review of Communicative Sciences and Disorders CSD to continue without modification. The date of the next Five-Year review is 2016-2017

**BACKGROUND:**

At its meeting on December 5, 2013, CAPR invited Dr. Nidhi Mahendra, CSD Chair to present the 5-Year Report.

**OVERVIEW OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO CAPR:**

- Self study and 5 year plan approved by CSD Faculty Feb 15, 2012
- External Reviewer Report (for site visit in April 2012) August, 2012
- Program response to External Reviewer Report June 15, 2013
- Complete 5-year report, May 30, 2013
- 8-year Accreditation letter from CAA, August 15, 2012 (good through August 31, 2020)

**CAPR ANALYSIS OF THE PROGRAM'S FIVE-YEAR REVIEW:**

Overall, the review process and documentation provided by CSD is thorough and impressive. The program was founded in 1970 and has been continuously accredited by several important bodies such as American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA). Their Speech Language Pathology Credential is also accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and state-wide by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC). CSD also earned 8-year re-accreditation American Speech Language Hearing Association Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA).

CSD uses several methods for formal assessment such as comprehensive exams based on competencies from accrediting bodies, and surveys of students, alumni and employers. While much of that work is rigorous and contributes to CSDs high level of accreditation, the 5 year review document did not clearly list the program SLOs and Dr. Mahendra agreed that they could be easily added in future 5 year reviews. Based on the methods described in the report, CAPR is

confident CSD's assessment program is highly developed and responsive to valued outside accrediting bodies.

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND RESOURCES:**

CSD offers an undergraduate Major and a Master's degree. Total head count in Fall 2012 was 176 with 81 undergraduate and 95 graduate students. Demand for CSD is increasing as there were 55 undergraduates in 2008 and interest in the grad program is growing with 432 applicants for the Fall 2013 cohort of just 35 students. Dr. Mahendra reports they have an extremely high job placement rates with nearly all graduate students receiving job offers before graduating. Student achievement is high with multiple recipients of Outstanding Student Awards each year from the California Speech Language Hearing Association, competitive scholarships and co-authoring peer-reviewed publications. SFRs have ranges widely with increases in majors, but overall SFR was 30.4 for Fall 2012.

Since the last 5 year review, faculty have made significant improvements to the curriculum and advising program based on both assessment and external review. Some adjustments have been made to individual courses, but also to refine the sequence of coursework so students are prepared by the right theory & content courses before entering clinical practice courses. Faculty have also devised an advising "triage system" where an initial e-mail advisement is followed by a group session that answers all but a few specific individualized questions about transfer credits and variations on the degree completion road map.

CSD maintains a speech and audiology clinic and mobile audiology testing lab. This makes the program quite unique and important in that it represents one of the very few clinical settings on campus that provides those services to the community. In addition to the physical space of therapy rooms, testing labs and group therapy room, CSD has valuable and expensive equipment to do provides their clinical services and for students to get trained on contemporary procedures. CSD employs two full time clinic staff who also assist with teaching some clinic practicum courses, but in the past, the clinic had a third ASA and could still use this additional resource.

CSD faculty include only 5 total head count with one FERP, one associate professor and 3 assistant professors. With such a young faculty, chair duties have had to be carried by Associate Professor Mahendra. The work of this program is complex meeting not only the demands of teaching nearly 200 majors, but to teach them professional clinical skills using pedagogy and equipment that meets the standards of several accrediting bodies. This small group of faculty are active in teaching, scholarship, clinical practice and in fund-raising for their on-going equipment needs to make their clinic the best education setting for their students entering a profession with high standards for credentialing. The program could certainly benefit from more TT hires, and may indeed be deserving of a hiring a more senior member ready to assist with chair duties and experienced in juggling the demands of meeting so many different sets of accrediting bodies. This program is also deserving of additional support for equipment or staff to ensure ongoing excellence.

## **CAPR RECOMMENDATION(S) FOR CONTINUATION OF THE PROGRAM:**

CAPR recommends that the program continue without modification

**DATE OF THE PROGRAM'S NEXT FIVE-YEAR REVIEW: 2016-2017**