

UH COMD Strategic Plan, Executive Summary

The strategic plan for the University of Houston Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (UH COMD) is based on periodic self-study by the department, alignment with the strategic initiatives of the University of Houston, and in keeping with current needs of the discipline.

We have identified four strategic principles and supporting goals for UH COMD aligned with the UH strategic goals. From these, program-specific goals were developed. The program goals and the strategic principles on which they are based constitute the strategic plan for the department.

UH Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (COMD) Mission:

The mission of the Program in Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Houston is to advance the understanding of typical and disordered speech, language, swallowing, and hearing and increase access to efficient communication through excellence in teaching, scholarship and service to the community.

Strategic Principles for UH COMD: In accordance with the department mission, and the mission and the strategic principles established by the University of Houston and the UH System Board of Regents, the strategic plan for the University of Houston Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (UH COMD) consists of the following principles and goals.

1. **Student Success:** UH COMD will provide a top tier, inclusive, and supportive educational experience to all
 - a. Provide high quality undergraduate, post-baccalaureate and graduate degree programs
 - b. Expand outreach and recruitment efforts to attract highly qualified regional, national and international applicants
 - c. Provide our students educational opportunities to help upgrade their skills and help create a robust economy
2. **Nationally and internationally competitive research:** UH COMD will build a nationally and internationally competitive research powerhouse through an immersive culture of research and innovation.
 - a. Expand our nationally and internationally competitive research and disseminate new knowledge
 - b. Train the next generation of scholars in rigorous research
 - c. Enrich the educational experience of students at all levels through an immersive culture of research and innovation
3. **Social Responsibility:** UH COMD will provide high quality education and clinical services to increase access to effective communication for the Houston community
 - a. Recruit, retain, and empower a student body, faculty and staff that reflects the distinctly unique demographics of Houston
 - b. Strengthen and expand partnerships to meet the communication needs of the Houston community while providing students with a variety of educational, professional, and research experiences
4. **Culture of Excellence and Belonging:** UH COMD will foster a culture of responsibility, respect, kindness, curiosity, collaboration, and innovation.
 - a. Recruit and retain faculty and staff by providing a supportive environment with autonomy, opportunities to use their strengths to benefit the department, resources and support for development of professional skills to support student success in the professional and scientific workforce and reach national and international recognition
 - b. Be accountable for student learning and for the effective use of resources to promote student matriculation through degree programs and success in the professional and scientific workforce

Approved August 2025