

**Profile of the
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire
2019 Regents Teaching Excellence Program Award Recipient**

Highlights from nomination materials:

- UW-Eau Claire’s Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD), chaired by Dr. Vicki Samelson, offers courses in the liberal education program, delivers an innovative undergraduate program, and prepares graduate students for licensure in speech language pathology via in person and fully online degree options.
- In all courses, the department embeds innovative pedagogical practices that mirror current clinical approaches in the discipline; the program also provides students with multiple, inter-professional experiences outside the traditional classroom, where students can further develop their teaching, clinical, and research skills.
- From the on-site speech and language clinic, to a camp for aphasia patients and their caregivers, to a weeklong pre-college program for students with Asperger's Syndrome, the CSD program focuses on building learning opportunities for UW-Eau Claire students while simultaneously serving important community and regional needs; these "out of the traditional class experiences" have been so impactful on students' learning that the CSD faculty is bringing those experiential practices into the classroom. The use of innovative pedagogy and active learning strategies allows the faculty to extend experiential learning practices to all students in the classroom.
- The signature pedagogy of the CSD department is apprenticeship. A model of guided apprenticeship is woven throughout various programs within the department. Not all learning is explicit or direct so the department wishes to capitalize on implicit, contextualized learning. As experts in content and implementing interventions, they construct contexts to work alongside students, providing direct models and support.
- Inter-professional education and practice is embedded within several contexts, including the Chippewa Valley Aphasia Camp (occupational therapy, physical therapy, kinesiology, social work, computer science, etc.), Chippewa Valley Aphasia Group, and Blugold Aphasia Group (kinesiology, yoga, art, etc.), course-embedded clinical experiences (social work, kinesiology), and the Human Development Center (nursing, school psychology, reading specialists, social work, special education).
- The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) lab is designed to allow authentic collaboration; students and faculty discuss projects and work together to plan and implement research rather than faculty directing each step of the process. CSD 235, a freshman-level research course, follows a collaborative lab-based model in which student teams work with instructors to complete a research project.

In the words of graduates:

- “What has astounded me most about the Communication Sciences and Disorders department at UWEC is just how personally invested they are in ensuring that all their students succeed. If you were to ask each of the CSD undergraduate and graduate students how the department faculty has impacted their academic careers, every single one of them could tell a personal anecdote about times they have grown as clinicians, broken down barriers, and met significant milestones due, in no small part, to the wisdom and kindness of this department.”
—*Laura Imming*
- “Because of this department, I am inspired and feel prepared to establish or restore people’s abilities to communicate so that they can use speech and language to connect with their world.”—*Kate French*

In the words of a colleague:

- “Our CSD graduates are sought by employers, and we have a near perfect placement rate for our graduates. Our partners in the field tell us that our students are exceptionally well-prepared to meet the demands they face in classrooms.” —*Patricia A. Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UW-Eau Claire*