



# Interdisciplinary Programming for Early Intervention Specialists: One University's Experience

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# Our Interdisciplinary Team

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# Presentation Overview

- Benefits and Challenges of Interdisciplinary Professional Preparation
- Program Development Process
- Faculty Perspectives
- Confronting Challenges
- Sharing Your Experiences

# What is Interdisciplinary Programming?

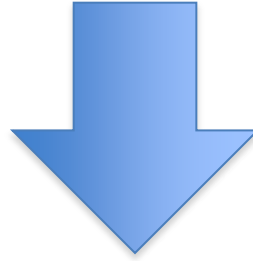
- Collaboration of disciplines
- Recognition of common goals
- Linking faculty and students
- Rich and diverse experiences
- Challenges traditional departmental and program structure

# Why Interdisciplinary Preparation?

- Infants, toddlers and families have complex needs
- Families work with many professionals
- Early Intervention demands collaboration



# Interdisciplinary preparation

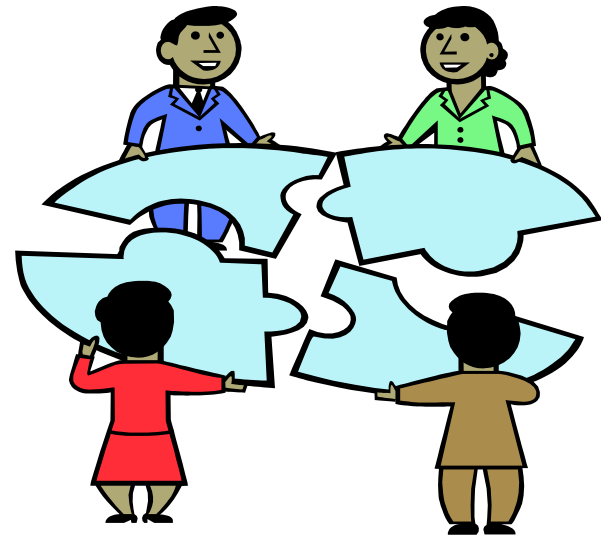


# Interdisciplinary practice

(Mellon & Winton, 2003)

“...interdisciplinary coursework and degrees should be available to prepare for collaboration and teaming across disciplines.”

Winton & McCullom (2008)



# Barriers to Interdisciplinary Preparation

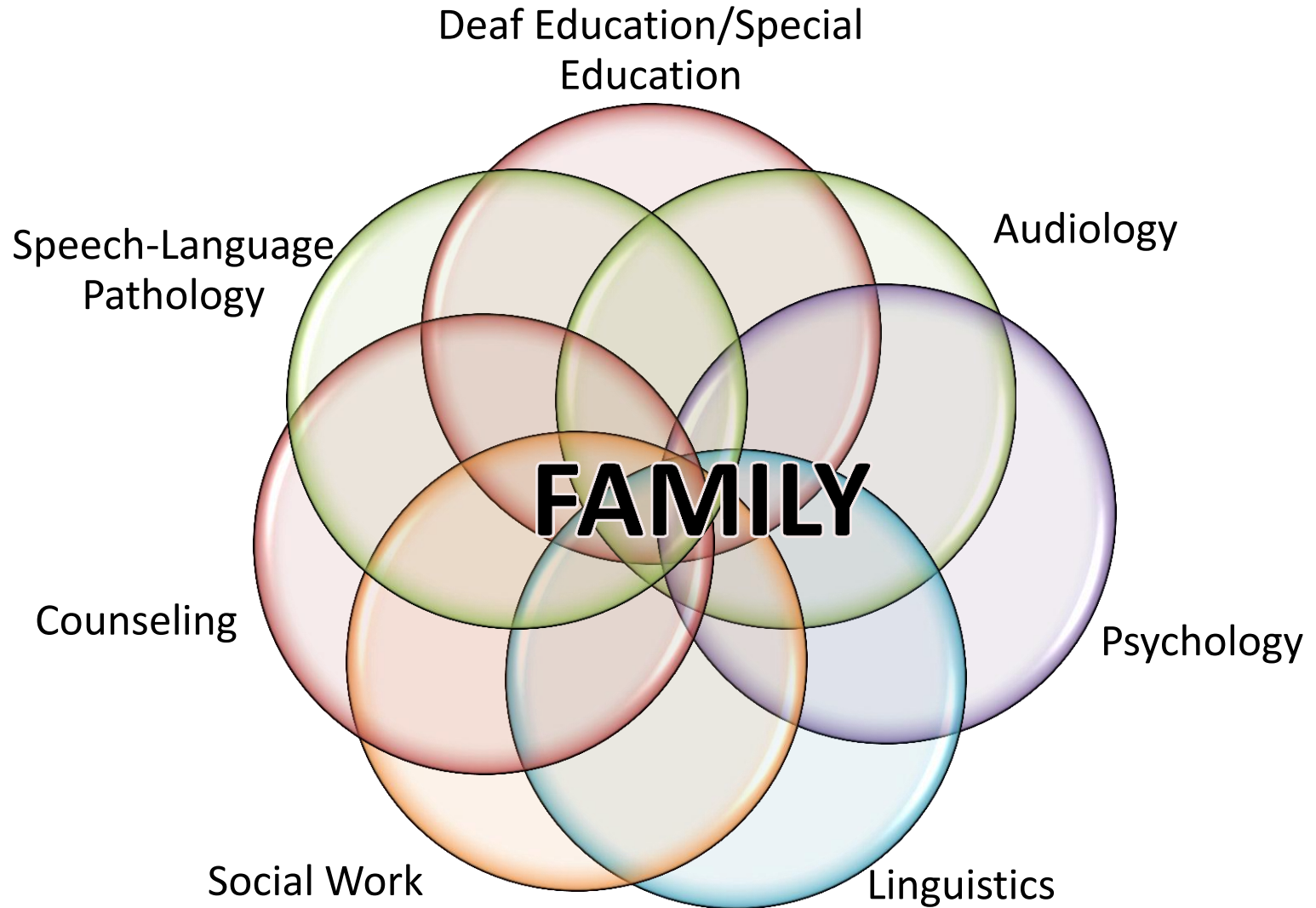
- History
- Accreditation and Professional Licenses
- Differences in Theoretical Frameworks
- Codes of Ethics and Practice Guidelines
- Standards and Requirements
- Money, Power and Control



# Traditional Early Intervention Preparation



# Interdisciplinary Model of Early Intervention

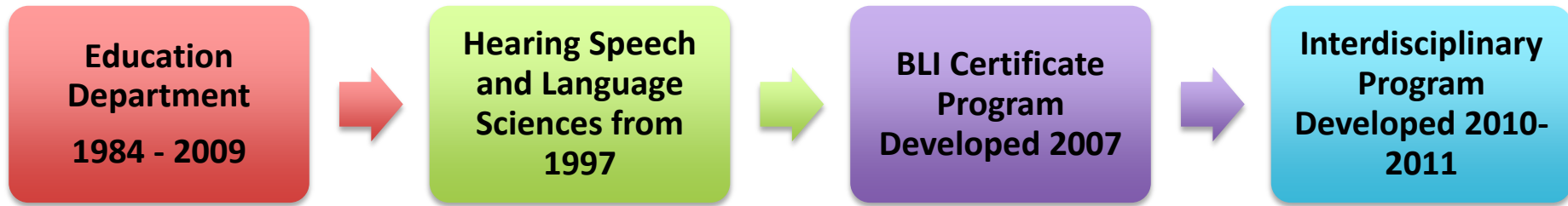


# IDEA and Interdisciplinary Preparation

coordination  
collaboration  
interagency cooperation  
multidisciplinary  
partnership  
team



# Gallaudet University Early Intervention Professional Preparation History



# Interdisciplinary Program Development at Gallaudet

Burstein Leadership Institute Certificate  
Program (2007 - 2011)

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Advisory Council (2009-2010)

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Interdisciplinary Work (2009 – Present)

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Interdisciplinary Certificate Program  
(Begins 2011)

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# Advisory Council

## Guidance to Program Planning Process

- Meets needs of field
- Reflects best practices
- Aligned with University mission
- Reflects interdisciplinary philosophy
- Resources and infrastructure needs
- Timelines
- Delivery Approaches

# Interdisciplinary Work Group



# Interdisciplinary Work Group Process

- What is Early Intervention?
- Why Interdisciplinary?
- Collected Documents of Recommended Practices from Respective Disciplines
- Developed Document of Theoretical Perspectives
- Mission, Audience and Program Description
- Selected SLO from Knowledge & Skills Document



# Core Knowledge and Skills

1. Screening, Assessment and Evaluation
2. Infant and Toddler Development
3. Language Acquisition and Communication Development
4. Technology: Auditory, Visual and Tactile
5. Family-Centered Practice
6. Socially, Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Practice
7. Planning and Implementing Service
8. Collaboration and Interdisciplinary Practice
9. Professional and Ethical Behavior
  - Stredler Brown, Moeller & Sass-Lehrer (2009)

# Deaf and Hard of Hearing Infants, Toddlers and Families: Collaboration and Leadership

## Course 1

### **Socio-Cultural and Political Contexts for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Infants, Toddlers and their Families**

On campus and online (hybrid), May 20-June 3; May 20 – 23 on campus

## Course 2

### **Communication, Language and Cognitive Development: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Infants and Toddlers**

Online, June 6-July 29, 2011

## Course 3

### **Leadership Perspectives on Families with Deaf or Hard of Hearing Infants and Toddlers: Their Cultures and Communities**

Online, Fall 2011 (dates TBA)

## Course 4

### **Strategies for Developing Communication, Language and Cognition for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Infants and Toddlers**

Online, Spring 2012 (dates TBA)

## Course 5

### **A Developmental Approach to Programming for Infants, Toddlers and their Families**

On campus and online (hybrid), May 2012 (dates TBA)

# Perspectives

- Family is most important resource and advocate for infants and toddlers who are deaf or hard of hearing.
  - Forced to re-think our assumptions
  - Are all families able to assume this role?
  - What expectations do we have for families re: advocacy? What training and support do we provide to equip them for this role?

# Confronting Challenges

- Territory and Ownership Issues
- University Structure
- Time and Resources (e.g. costs)
- Widespread support from university and field
- Documentation of Best Practices
- Proposed creating a separate interdisciplinary program (independent of departments)
- Proposal outlining tasks and timelines;
- Linking to University Mission

# Share Your Experiences

# It's About Time



Time to Practice what we Preach

Time to Invest in Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Time Passes Quickly for Infants and Young  
Children