Strategic Plan for the Speech-Language Pathology Graduate Program
2019

The mission of the graduate program in Speech-Language Pathology is to further the understanding of human communication and its disorders and to contribute to the advancement of the field of Speech-Language Pathology through clinical practice, research and professional development. The program strives to prepare Speech-Language Pathologists who provide quality services across the lifespan, engage in intellectual discovery, and give back to the profession and their communities.

This mission will be achieved by:

**Goal 1: Providing innovative, quality speech-language pathology services to the region**

Objective: Continue enhancement and improvement of clinical programs available for student and faculty participation
  - Benchmark: Explore use of new video technology with clinical teaching
  - Benchmark: Initiate tele-practice at the SLHC
  - Benchmark: Initiate transgender voice services
  - Benchmark: Evaluate use of Simucase for clinic hours
  - Benchmark: Explore new external contracts

Objective: Continue interdisciplinary case based learning

Fits with AHCD Goal 2: Increase alumni employment opportunities
Fits with AHCD Goal 4: Increase revenue streams
Fits with College Goal 1: Diversify revenue sources to enhance revenue and increase revenue stability
Fits with College Goal 3: Assure CHHS program excellence and accreditation
Fits with Presidential Goal: Enrollment
Fits with Presidential Goal: Research, Artistry, Innovation and Regional Engagement
Fits with Presidential Goal: Fiscal Responsibility
Fits with Presidential Goal: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

**Goal 2: Creating an environment that fosters scholarly activities and critical thinking**

Objective: Highlight faculty research activity
  - Benchmark: Get programs listed on OSEEL website for student research opportunities
  - Benchmark: Explore creating websites for all program labs
  - Benchmark: Discuss one scholarly activity at each faculty meeting
  - Benchmark: Faculty research will be presented in a public forum
Objective: Increase student participation in research opportunities
  Benchmark: Create engagement activities for Freshman admit students
  Benchmark: Get programs listed on OSEEL website for student research opportunities
  Benchmark: Explore creating websites for all program labs
  Benchmark: Students will present at professional conferences
  Benchmark: Update documents for honors student expectations/guidelines

Objective: Explore creating an SLP brown bag research/clinical program group

Objective: Collaborate with external constituents regarding research
  Benchmark: Maintain external research collaborations

Objective: Increase grant applications.
  Benchmark: Submit one external research grant.
  Benchmark: Submit one internal research grant

Objective: Increase manuscript submissions
  Benchmark: Explore wider range of journals for submission of smaller projects
  Benchmark: 2 conference presentations will be reworked for journal submissions
  Benchmark: 2 faculty members will join CHHS research group
  Benchmark: Undergrad students will take undergraduate research methods course prior to capstone

Fits with AHCD Goal 1: Develop ethical student leadership/advocacy
Fits with AHCD Goal 3: Create an environment that supports faculty research
Fits with AHCD Goal 4: Increase revenue streams
Fits with College Goal 2: Increase CHHS extramural funding and research productivity
Fits with College Goal 3: Assure CHHS program excellence and accreditation
Fits with Presidential Goal: Enrollment
Fits with Presidential Goal: Research, Artistry, Innovation and Regional Engagement
Fits with Presidential Goal: Fiscal Responsibility

Goal 3: Facilitating involvement in university, professional, alumni and community organizations

Objective: Highlight faculty involvement and participation in professional and community organizations
  Benchmark: Discuss one outreach activity at each faculty meeting

Objective: Increase student participation in professional organizations
  Benchmark: Notify students of at least 3 regional conference opportunities
  Benchmark: Explore student funding for students to attend conferences:
  Benchmark: 5 students will attend a professional conference.
  Benchmark: Invite at least 2 alumni to speak about professional involvement
  Benchmark: Notify students of professional practice alerts and discuss role of professional organizations
  Benchmark: Organize one faculty presentation about their involvement in professional
organizations

Objective: Increase participation in international collaborations
   Benchmark: Develop one international collaboration experience

Objective: Develop NIU as a regional choice for professional development
   Benchmark: Offer two continuing education experiences that have participant fees
   Benchmark: Renew credentials as an ASHA CEU provider

Objective: Continue to promote an atmosphere of equity in student learning and leadership
   Benchmark: Use the COMD majors blackboard community to increase communication amongst faculty and students

Objective: Continue to provide students with opportunities prior to graduation that prepare them for future employment
   Benchmark: Provide lectures from career services on networking, interviewing and resume writing
   Benchmark: Invite at least two alumni to speak in classes about career opportunities
   Benchmark: All students will complete at least three different external practica

Objective: Increase relations with alumni and stakeholders
   Benchmark: Explore an alumni event organized around the ISHA college bowl
   Benchmark: Explore ways to use a graduate assistant to facilitate social media for alumni communication.
   Benchmark: Invite external supervisors to graduation reception
   Benchmark: Invite alumni and external supervisors to CEU events
   Benchmark: Complete external site visits

Fits with AHCD Goal 1: Develop ethical student leadership/advocacy
Fits with AHCD Goal 2: Increase alumni employment opportunities
Fits with AHCD Goal 4: Increase revenue streams
Fits with College Goal 1: Diversify revenue sources to enhance revenue and increase revenue stability
Fits with College Goal 3: Assure CHHS program excellence and accreditation
Fits with Presidential Goal: Enrollment
Fits with Presidential Goal: Research, Artistry, Innovation and Regional Engagement
Fits with Presidential Goal: Fiscal Sustainability

Goal 4: Assure program accreditation and compliance with standards

Objective: Transition to electronic advising records for graduate students
Objective: Ensure that external and internal faculty complete CEUs in supervision and create a tracking system
Objective: Explore new data tracking system implemented by the Office of Educator Licensure and Preparation
Objective: Hire two new faculty members to fill vacancies.
Objective: Secure adjunct faculty to teach in specialty areas not covered by regular faculty
Objective: Ensure that meet 2020 CFCC standards and understand the online application process

Fits with College Goal 3: Assure CHHS program excellence and accreditation
Fits with Presidential Goal: Enrollment