Strategic Plan for the Speech-Language Pathology Graduate Program
2021

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:** Train new faculty member to continue voice modification services in consultation with the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center
- **Benchmark:** Explore EI evaluation credentialing for additional faculty
- **Benchmark:** Explore new external contracts and sites
- **Benchmark:** Submit 1 grant to support clinic programs
- **Benchmark:** Explore becoming an Autism center listed on TAP website
- **Benchmark:** Prioritize hiring 2 new clinic faculty members
- **Benchmark:** Facilitate students and faculty undergoing ADOS training

**Objective:** Continue interdisciplinary case-based learning

- **Benchmark:** Offer at least 2 guest speaker opportunities for graduate students to learn from experts in other disciplines
- **Benchmark:** Offer at least 3 classroom projects/assignments that ask students to demonstrate how they will work with interdisciplinary teams

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: Student Recruitment, Student Success & Student Experience
Fits with Presidential Goal: Research, Scholarship, Artistry and Engagement
Fits with Presidential Goal: Resource Development & 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:** 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: Explore creating websites for all program labs
   Benchmark: Students will present at professional conferences
   Benchmark: A student will work in each faculty lab

Objective: Collaborate with interdisciplinary or external constituents regarding research
   Benchmark: Maintain research collaborations with external entities
   Benchmark: Publish with an interdisciplinary or external collaborator

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

Objective: Increase manuscript submissions
   Benchmark: Submit to a wider range of journals for smaller projects
   Benchmark: 2 conference presentations will be reworked for journal submissions
   Benchmark: Submit 2 internal grants to support graduate assistants
   Benchmark: Submit 2 proposals to the UFA for funding to support research initiatives

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: Student Recruitment, Student Success & Student Experience
Fits with Presidential Goal: Research, Scholarship, Artistry, and Engagement
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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
   Benchmark: 1 additional faculty member will become involved with a state or national professional organization

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: Invite 2 external speakers to talk about their experiences as SLPS of color
   Benchmark: Review how we conduct comprehensive exams
   Benchmark: Host 2 social events each semester
   Benchmark: Create podcasts to promote diversity and inclusion in SLP
   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: Host an alumni event organized around the ISHA college bowl
   Benchmark: Invite external supervisors to graduation reception
   Benchmark: Invite alumni and external supervisors to CEU events
   Benchmark: Complete external site visits
   Benchmark: Present an outstanding alumni award

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Goal 4: Assure program accreditation and compliance with standards

Objective: Hire two new faculty members to fill vacancies.
Objective: Secure adjunct faculty to teach in specialty areas not covered by regular faculty
Objective: Monitor 2021 proposed changes in CAA standards to ensure they are met
Objective: Ensure that students obtain 400 clinical practicum hours in three different settings prior to graduation.

Fits with College Goal 3: Assure CHHS program excellence and accreditation
Fits with Presidential Goal: Student Recruitment, Student Success & Student Experience