



Graduate Program in Communication Disorders

Vision Statement

The graduate program in Communication Disorders aims to provide excellent professional preparation and training for students to become competent, independent, critically thinking speech-language pathologists who can prevent, diagnose and treat disorders within the scope of practice.

Mission Statement

The mission of the graduate program is to:

- Provide outstanding, affordable graduate preparation in SLP for students of all backgrounds who demonstrate academic and clinical promise.
- Engage students intellectually through innovative teaching, mentoring, and collaboration with faculty in coursework, clinical practica, and research experiences.
- Immerse graduate students in an enriching environment that encourages participation in professional development activities and service.
- Serve individuals and organizations in the Hudson Valley region through the activities of graduate students in educational and outreach programs as well as the provision of clinical services through the SUNY New Paltz Speech-Language and Hearing Center and at off-campus sites.

In order to carry out our mission to serve students and the community, we have prioritized the following areas of focus as described below.

Focus Area 1 – Clinical Education

Priorities:

- Provide clinical training that integrates classroom and clinic
- Emphasize problem-based learning
- Provide consistency in clinical and supervisory experiences for on-site and off-site students.
- Utilize EBP for all clinical goals and interventions
- Provide quality services to diverse populations of individuals with communication disorders

Outcomes:

- Students will master clinical skills and develop independence in applying theoretical knowledge in clinical contexts
- Students will consistently demonstrate curiosity and critical thinking in applied practice

- Students will master clinical reasoning and demonstrate understanding of the flow of clinical information
- Students will demonstrate a culture of clinically applied and student generated research

Focus Area 2 – Scholarship

Priorities:

- Support the development of an ingrained and self-sustaining culture of varied scholarship with widespread involvement of faculty and students
- Increase emphasis on the research bases of the profession, both through coursework and through student involvement in faculty research
- Develop a culture of good consumers of research and graduate students who have self-efficacy for EBP
- Emphasize ASHA ethical considerations in all research work

Outcomes:

- Students will utilize research-based rationales on all lesson plans and for all intervention activities
- Faculty will increase involvement in scholarship activities that may result in publications
- Students will increase involvement in faculty-led research projects
- Students will initiate student-led research projects

Focus Area 3 – Admissions

Priorities:

- Attract a strong, competitive, diverse cohort of graduate students
- Increase regional awareness of our program
- Continue to improve and update facilities and technologies to enroll quality students
- Develop new procedures and streamline existing procedures to encourage an efficient process for applicants

Outcomes:

- Enroll a cohort that represents diversity in geography and demographics
- Increase regional awareness of the availability of our graduate program

Focus Area 4 – Teaching Innovations including Pedagogy

Priorities:

- Improve teaching innovations for maximum student outcomes
- Add hybrid courses to improve flexibility for students and faculty
- Develop opportunities for inter- and intra-professional education (IPE)
- Promote development in the area of pedagogy

Outcomes:

- Faculty will teach in innovative ways
- Students will improve critical thinking and writing skills
- Faculty will participate in IPP (inter- and intra-professional practice) opportunities

Focus Area 5 – Outreach**Priorities:**

- Increase quality of local (regional) affiliations
- Increase SLHC presence in the community
- Improve clinical offerings to meet regional and local needs
- Provide continuing education for professionals

Outcomes:

- Increased diversity of on-campus clients
- Improved network affiliations off-campus
- Establish an advisory board consisting of patients, professionals and community leaders
- Establish professional education series and/or regular offerings