

STRATEGIC PLAN – 2017-2018

The vision of the Graduate Program in Communication Disorders at SUNY New Paltz is 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.

Our mission 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.

Strategic Plan

Our strategic plan focuses on 5 areas: clinical education, scholarship, admissions, teaching innovations, and outreach which are summarized below.

Clinical Education

Our priorities in this area include integrating classroom learning with clinic experience, emphasizing problem-based learning, utilizing evidence-based practices (EBP), and providing consistency in clinical and supervisory experiences.

Scholarship

Priorities in this area are to support and encourage a culture of varied scholarship which includes collaboration between faculty and students, to promote development of research skills, and to emphasize ASHA ethical considerations in all research work. As a result, students will utilize research-based rationales on all lesson plans and for all intervention activities, and participate in student-led and faculty-led research projects.

Admissions

Admissions priorities are to attract a strong, competitive, diverse cohort of students, to increase regional awareness of our program, and to continue improvements to facilities and technological resources.

Teaching Innovations including Pedagogy

Our priorities in this area are to seek and incorporate innovative approaches to teaching, including adding more hybrid courses, and to provide opportunities for inter- and intra-professional education (IPE).

Outreach

Our priorities in terms of outreach include quality local and regional affiliations, promoting the Speech-Language and Hearing Center in the community, and ensuring that clinical offerings match local and regional needs.

Strategic Plan Assessment

Schedule of Analysis

The strategic plan will be analyzed once per year, at a minimum, and may be analyzed more frequently if desired by a majority of members of the department. The annual analysis will be conducted at a department meeting during the fall semester.

Evaluation and Indicators of Progress

The mechanism for evaluation of the plan will be to include an evaluation of the plan on the agenda for a department meeting. A copy of the plan, suggested changes (if any), and reports or other written evidence that reflects progress or lack of progress in meeting plan objectives in each of the 5 focus areas will be included with the meeting agenda. The department members present at the meeting will review and discuss the materials and share non-written and other evidence that reflects progress or lack of progress in each of the 5 focus areas. Following the discussion, the members present will re-affirm the plan or approve revisions as deemed necessary or desirable by the majority. A report of the progress in meeting the plan's objectives will be part of the minutes of the department meeting.

Examples of written or verbal reports or other evidence of progress may include: CAA Annual Report Review; Student Outcome Data Report (completion rates, employment rates, PRAXIS exam results); relevant data from the most recent HES survey; summaries of student clinical experience and outcomes; summaries of student research experience and outcomes; student performance on comprehensive written and oral exams; review of student learning outcomes in relationship to the curriculum; Graduate Student Profile Data Reports; discussion of facility

and/or technology upgrades or shortcomings; discussion of hybrid courses, IPE and other innovations; discussion of the patient base at the on-campus Speech, Language and Hearing Center with regard to meeting student practicum needs and community needs for services; and discussion of affiliate organizations with respect to adequate, high quality practicum placement opportunities for graduate students.

Sharing with Stakeholders

The strategic plan is posted on the department website. A new version of the plan document will be posted on the department website following the annual evaluation. If the plan was not changed but only re-affirmed at the annual evaluation, then the plan will be re-posted with a new date range in the title indicating that the plan is affirmed for the academic year indicated. Stakeholders who wish to see the details of the evaluation may request a copy of the department meeting minutes.