

# Graduate Program in Communication Disorders

## Vision, Mission, and Strategic Plan 2023-2026

### Vision Statement

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

### Mission Statement

The mission of the graduate program is to:

- Provide outstanding, affordable graduate preparation in SLP for a diverse cohort of students 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 and service.
- Serve individuals and organizations in the Hudson Valley region primarily through the activities of graduate students in two ways: One, by promoting graduate student participation in educational and outreach programs, and two, by fully engaging graduate student clinicians as active service providers in the SUNY New Paltz Speech-Language & Hearing Center and at Affiliate locations off-campus.

### Strategic Plan

The Department of Communication Disorders Faculty plans to review the strategic plan twice yearly at the winter and summer curriculum retreats and will amend as needed.

#### Goal Area 1: Promote student engagement and professional development.

Measurable Objective	Strategy	Schedule	Responsible Person(s)
<b>1a:</b> Develop a peer mentorship program among first- and second-year graduate students.	Pair one second-year grad student mentor with a small group of first year graduate students to help them to adjust to graduate school.	Summer: Assign mentors. Fall: Mid-term check-in. Spring: Mid-term check-in. End of Spring: Student feedback.	Clinic Director, Graduate Program Coordinator, and/or Department Chair.
<b>1b:</b> Host annual spring career fair.	Bring local employers and students together annually for networking opportunities.	Spring: Contact employers (including alumni), reserve space, invite students, advertise, and conduct career fair.	Clinic Director, Graduate Program Coordinator, and/or Department Chair.

**Goal Area 1: Promote student engagement and professional development - CONTINUED**

<b>Measurable Objective</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Responsible Person(s)</b>
<b>1c:</b> Host annual fall professional networking event.	Connect with SHAHV, local organizations, and alumni to provide opportunities for students to engage with representatives/guest speakers from the local SLP community.	Summer: Contact SHAHV to collaborate on fall professional networking event. Fall: Contact professionals (including alumni), reserve space, invite students, advertise, and conduct event.	Graduate faculty, NYSSLHA [? By “NYSSLHA”, do you mean student members of the New Paltz chapter of NYSSLHA?].

**Goal Area 2: Education**

<b>Measurable Objective</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Responsible Person(s)</b>
<b>2a:</b> Revise academic/clinical remediation and probation policies to align with externship expectations.	Update department wide KASA policy.	Spring 2023: KASA policy updated. Spring 2025: KASA policy evaluation. Spring 2026: KASA policy revision as warranted.	Graduate Coordinator, Graduate faculty, and/or Department Chair.
<b>2b:</b> Develop additional case-based assignments in academic coursework.	Faculty collaborate on curriculum mapping across courses and produce case-based assignments in all nine areas inclusive of issues of DEISJ.	Spring – Fall 2023: Graduate curriculum mapping. Fall 2023- Fall 2024: Develop and implement case-based assignments. Spring 2024: Begin assessment in selected course.	Graduate faculty.
<b>2c:</b> Update comprehensive examination process to assess students’ integration of academic background and clinical knowledge.	Faculty meet to evaluate and update process to meet student learning needs.	Spring 2023- Fall 2023: Implement revised process. Fall 2023: Evaluate comprehensive examination process and adjust as needed.	Graduate faculty.

**Goal 3 Area: Recruit strong, diverse, cohort of graduate students.**

<b>Measurable Objective</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Responsible Person(s)</b>
<b>3a:</b> Revise admissions process.	Eliminate GRE requirement; revise writing requirement/personal statement; revisit interview questions.	Spring 2023: Develop weighted rubric.	Graduate Coordinator, Department Chair, and/or Graduate faculty.
<b>3b.</b> Increase promotion of program in regional markets.	Coordinate with the SUNY New Paltz Graduate School and identify community resources to support regional recruitment.	Fall 2023: Partner with Office of alumni affairs, the graduate school and university marketing to identify promotional opportunities. Spring 2024: Implement plans developed with university offices.	Graduate Coordinator, Department Chair, and/or Graduate Faculty.