

# Speech-Language Pathology Strategic Plan

## Speech-Language Pathology Mission

The mission of the Program in Speech-Language Pathology is:

- to guide students in attaining the essential knowledge and skill for entry to the practice of speech-language pathology
- to provide the breadth and depth of classroom and practical experiences consonant with each student's developing interests and career goals
- to support student clinical preparation through innovative and collaborative clinical services on campus and in the community

Together, these efforts support our never-ending goal of becoming a leading program in understanding, treating, and preventing communication disorders.

## Learning Outcomes

1. **Basic Processes:** Graduates will be able to apply knowledge in communication and swallowing processes and disorders, including their biological, neurological, acoustic, psychological, developmental/lifespan, linguistic, and cultural bases, to clinical practice at a level commensurate with entry-level certification and licensure in speech-language pathology.
2. **Prevention, Assessment & Intervention:** Graduates will be able to apply the principles and methods of prevention, assessment, and intervention for people with communication disorders including anatomical/physiological, psychological, developmental, linguistic, and cultural correlates of the disorders at a level commensurate with entry-level certification and licensure in speech-language pathology.
3. **Academic and Clinical Experiences:** Graduates will be able to evaluate and treat individuals who exhibit disorders of articulation, fluency, voice/resonance, receptive/expressive language, hearing, swallowing, cognitive aspects of communication, social aspects of communication, and communication modalities.

In addition, students will demonstrate critical thinking skills at a level commensurate with entry-level certification and licensure in speech-language pathology.

## Five Year Strategic Plan (initiated May 2018)

### Goals and Objectives

**1. Clinical Leadership** — The program will maintain its role as a nationally recognized academic program preparing outstanding professionals that have the clinical skills, critical thinking ability, and understanding of research to provide efficacious therapy to individuals with communication challenges and become leaders in the field of speech-language pathology.

### **Objectives**

- Develop additional clinical training sites and programs that meet the expanding scope of practice and the needs of our community.
- Provide students with the breadth of experience and skilled mentorship that will enable their success in the job market.
- Provide students with the research knowledge and opportunity to become effective consumers of literature and engage in research initiatives, including those that evaluate the efficacy of their clinical practice.
- Provide opportunities for students to collaborate with community professionals in provision of innovative service delivery.

**2. Curriculum Development** — The program will consistently evaluate and modify our curriculum to reflect the trends in our field and incorporate advancements in knowledge while utilizing the unique skills and experience provided by our academic and clinical faculty to enhance student learning.

- Develop new courses and modify existing courses in response to curriculum evaluation to ensure students are provided the most up to date information.
- Utilize faculty skill and expertise to provide specialized elective courses that enhance students' scientific, research, and clinical knowledge.
- Take advantage of opportunities to hire additional faculty to expand the breadth of faculty expertise in the areas of cognitive and neurologic disorders, voice, disorders of speech production, and areas that support the training of students to work in medical settings.
- Maintain flexibility in responding to trends in our field via curriculum modification.
- Advance opportunities for multicultural education and clinical experiences that will prepare students to work in urban schools and serve the needs of underserved populations as well as enhancing our ability to recruit qualified bilingual students.

**3. Research Prominence** — The program will enhance research prominence by supporting faculty initiatives, expanding faculty, and educating future leaders to ensure that we will remain at the forefront of research in the understanding and treatment of communication disorders.

- Support the faculty with state-of-the-art laboratories, release time from teaching, and student research assistants to enhance their research initiatives.

- Remain flexible to opportunities to add faculty and collaborate with faculty within the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, the UT Dallas community, and the UT Southwestern Medical School to create new research initiatives.
- Convert new knowledge into the practical application that enhances clinical practice.
- Provide students with opportunities to participate in research projects within the program, the school, and the university and community facilities.