

**COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS DEPARTMENT  
GRADUATE PROGRAM IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY  
FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN  
2020-2025**

**1. Enhance the quality of the graduate program to best prepare students to meet or exceed the standards of the field of Speech-Language Pathology.**

Rationale: To maintain a quality graduate program, ongoing monitoring of professional standards must take place. The field of speech-language pathology is constantly evolving. Therefore, a graduate program in speech-language pathology must monitor changes to assure the quality of the education for entry-level practitioners.

Strategic Objectives

a. Continue to update the program to comply with the ASHA standards, certification, accreditation and scope of practice requirements.

Responsible individuals: Department Chair, Graduate Coordinator, Center Director

Reporting Practice: Yearly

b. Continue to update the program to comply with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Licensure and Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Licensure requirements

Responsible individuals: Department Chair, Graduate Coordinator, Center Director

Reporting Practice: Yearly

c. Continue program assessments as a basis for program change based on program review, community, student, and client feedback.

Responsible individuals: Department Chair, Graduate Coordinator, Center Director and all Clinical Instructors and Academic Faculty.

Reporting Practice: Yearly

d. Monitor adequacy of resources including clinical resources, teaching resources, technology resources, and library resources.

Responsible individuals: Department Chair, Center Director, Clinical Instructors, Various Faculty

Reporting Practice: Yearly

**2. Enhance scholarly culture through integration of academic and clinical research and learning**

Rationale: To maintain the profession, speech-language pathologists must be life-long learners with an understanding of evidence-based practice. In addition, they must understand and participate in the research process to provide evidence-based practice.

### Strategic Objectives

a. Discuss and highlight the most current research in classes and practicum

Responsible individuals: Faculty and Clinical Instructors

Reporting Practice: Each semester

b. Integrate academic and clinical research into evidence-based practice.

Responsible individuals: Faculty and Clinical Instructors

Reporting Practice: Monthly

c. Understand and evaluate types and levels of evidence in research

Responsible individuals: Faculty teaching CD 980 Research in Communication Disorders

Reporting Practice: Yearly

d. Encourage student involvement in faculty/staff and student initiated research

Responsible individuals: Faculty and Staff

Reporting Practice: Yearly

### **3. Incorporate student feedback in department decision-making.**

Rationale: Continued monitoring, evaluation, and implementation of student feedback enhances classroom and clinical learning. Student involvement in department decision-making will support responsible community living and increase leadership skills

### Strategic Objectives

a. Review, evaluate, and use student feedback from course evaluations, clinical supervisor evaluations, exit interviews and alumni evaluations to aid in program decision-making

Responsible individuals; Department Chair, Graduate Program Coordinator, Center Director

Reporting Practice: Each semester

b. Review, evaluate, and use student feedback from Advising to aid in program decision-making

Responsible individuals; Department Chair, Graduate Program Coordinator

Reporting Practice: Each semester

c. Review, summarize, evaluate feedback from student advisory board participants.

Responsible individuals: Department Chair

Reporting Practice: Yearly

**4. Continue to strengthen the relationship between the Department and the WSU community and beyond by providing the highest quality clinical services to the clients served in the WSU Speech-Language-Hearing Center and through its extensions**

Rationale: The CSD department, through its courses and Speech-Language-Hearing Center, is connected to the WSU campus community and the communities within Worcester county. These connections continue to be strengthened through activities such as interdepartmental events, summer programs, and outreach events for example community speech-language and hearing screenings, and treatment.

Strategic Objectives

a. Provide speech, language, and hearing prevention, evaluation, and treatment services both on and off campus

Responsible individuals: Center Director, Clinical Instructors, Faculty Members

Reporting Practice: Yearly

b. Provide opportunities for community service.

Responsible individuals: Various Faculty and Clinical Instructors

Reporting Practice: Yearly

c. Develop specialty clinics in areas where students need clinical experiences

Responsible individuals: Department members

Reporting Practice: Yearly

d. Continue to offer CEU activities 2x/year

Responsible individuals: Members of CEU Committee, Department of Graduate and Continuing Education

Reporting Practice: Each semester

**5. Expand recruitment, maintain student retention and success indicators.**

Rationale: Develop a diverse student body by expanding recruitment and at the same time strengthening student retention and preparedness. Data are collected each semester to promote student retention, and preparedness.

Strategic Objectives

a. Advertising nationally, providing virtual meetings for prospective students, and implement strategies to target diverse and non-traditional students

Responsible individuals: Graduate Program Coordinator, Faculty

Reporting Practice: Yearly

b. Continue to encourage students to approach faculty and staff at times in addition to scheduled advising periods

Responsible individuals: Department members

Reporting Practice: Yearly

c. Maintain ASHA Praxis Exam pass rates, student retention rates, and employment rate.

Responsible individuals: Graduate Coordinator and Department Chair

Reporting Practice: Each semester