February 2016

Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
College of Health and Human Sciences
Purdue University

Strategic Plan 2016-2020

MISSION

The Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences emphasizes the study of human communication sciences and disorders. All aspects of communication – including speech, language, and hearing – as well as essential functions of swallowing and balance are explored through all stages of the lifespan. The Department provides excellence in education across undergraduate, graduate professional (MS-SLP and AuD), and research programs (PhD). Evidence-based practice and research are central emphases of all the department’s programs. As future clinicians and developing scientists, students study all aspects of normal and pathological communication, as well as normal and disordered swallowing and balance. The Department embraces a state, national, and international character in its student enrollment, its reputation, and placement of its graduates. The mission of the department fits well with the missions of both the University and the College of Health and Human Sciences.

CORE VALUES/DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS

We accomplish our mission through a culture that is committed to:

- Continuous learning
- Critical thinking
- Respect for one another
- A diverse and inclusive campus community
- Stewardship and accountability
- Flexibility and adaptability
- Collaboration across intradisciplinary and interdisciplinary bounds
- Advancing scholarship of evidence-based practice

VISION

Be a recognized international leader in allied areas of speech, language, hearing, and swallowing disorders through seminal research revealing underlying processes, translational science bridging from laboratory to patient, and preparation of the finest clinicians and scholars.
Goals and Objectives

RESEARCH PROMINENCE

GOAL 1: Be recognized as a national and international leader in creating new knowledge that advances our understanding of hearing, speech, language, and swallowing.

OBJ 1: Be a leading institution in the field in terms of publications and citations per capita, impact factors, and other relevant metrics.

OBJ 2: Be a leading institution in the field in research funding as measured by number and dollar amounts of faculty grants per capita, and by percentage of faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and doctoral students with grants.

OBJ 3: Convert new knowledge into practical applications that improve lives through a culture that supports entrepreneurship.

GOAL 2: Be recognized as a national and international leader in success of PhD graduates.

OBJ 1: Be a leading institution in the field in PhD graduates who obtain postdoctoral fellow appointments, university faculty positions, or research scientist positions in industry.

OBJ 2: Be a leading institution in the field in the percentage of PhD graduates who earn promotion and tenure after assuming a university faculty position.

OBJ 3: Be a leading institution in the field in publication and grant success of PhD graduates.

CLINICAL LEADERSHIP

GOAL 3: Implement new clinical experiences and extend current experiences for audiology and speech-language pathology graduate students to enhance clinical education and national distinction.

OBJ 1: Augment existing and create new clinical research collaborations to enhance evidence-based practice experiences across the curriculum and to increase translational research.

OBJ 2: Enhance existing and introduce new service delivery models including interprofessional education and practice/telepractice for speech-language pathology and audiology graduate students.

OBJ 3: Be a leading institution in the field in clinical education and engagement with national and global impact.
UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

GOAL 4: Maximize opportunities for students to realize their career goals within and outside the speech, language, and hearing sciences professions.

OBJ 1: Increase experiential learning inside and outside of coursework, including increasing individual opportunities for clinical, research, and community outreach participation.

OBJ 2: Enhance mentoring/advising of all SLHS students by identifying their interests and increasing their understanding of career opportunities and experiences required for success.

OBJ 3: Improve foundational skills, such as critical thinking, critical analysis, writing, and information literacy.

OBJ 4: Recruit and support more diverse students through greater education and outreach efforts.

OBJ 5: Cross-list more courses with allied departments to provide greater breadth and flexibility and shorter time to completion for both SLHS majors and non-SLHS majors.

OBJ 6: Increase study-abroad options beginning with building upon existing relationships between Purdue and international universities.

GRADUATE EDUCATION

GOAL 5: Extend leadership in preparation of the next generation of scholar scientists, educators, and clinicians making Purdue ‘the destination’ for the finest students.

OBJ 1: In recognition of Purdue as a leader among a cohort of research universities that prepare professors for the whole nation, increase the number of PhD students and post-doctoral fellows by creating greater visibility and financial support.

OBJ 2: Develop a consistent pipeline of candidates to the AuD program by adjusting our curriculum to facilitate entry and by extending reach to undergraduates from relevant majors outside communication sciences.

OBJ 3: Increase interprofessional education between audiology and speech-language pathology, and implement new interprofessional education with allied fields such as exercise physiology, medicine, nutrition, and pharmacy.

OBJ 4: Recruit and support more diverse students through greater education and outreach efforts.
CONTINUING EDUCATION

GOAL 6: Extend commitment to Purdue students beyond graduation and to fellow professionals across the country (and eventually worldwide) by enhancing leadership in continuing education.

**OBJ 1:** Build upon the foundation of the Crossroads Conference on Communicative Disorders through enhanced integration of strengths in research and clinic to have Purdue recognized as a premier destination to learn cutting-edge evidence-based practice.

**OBJ 2:** Create the web portal ‘Purdue for Life’ for continuing education distance learning presented by Purdue faculty.

**OBJ 3:** Develop local CEU workshops, clinical/research symposia, and/or ‘summer school’ continuing education opportunities open to national and international professionals in our areas of expertise and excellence.