

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

Strategic Plan 2021-2027

**Mission**

The Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences emphasizes the study of speech, language, hearing, swallowing, and balance, across the lifespan. The Department prioritizes 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. 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 aligns with the missions of Purdue University and the College of Health and Human Sciences.

**Our core values and culture**

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

- Community support and engagement
- Mutual respect
- Continuous learning
- Advancing scholarship
- Stewardship and accountability
- Flexibility and adaptability
- Intradisciplinary and interdisciplinary collaboration

**Vision**

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

## **Focus Area 1: Enhancing Research Prominence**

**Goal 1:** Recognition as a national and international leader in faculty research productivity and impact.

**Objective 1:** To lead the field in number of publications, average impact factor scores, number of citations, and other relevant metrics.

**Objective 2:** To lead in research funding, as measured by number of grants, percentage of faculty members with grants, and dollar amounts.

**Objective 3:** To lead in translating new knowledge into practical applications that improve lives, as measured in number of patents, and adoption of research-based products by the general public.

**Goal 2:** Recognition as a national and international leader in the success of PhD graduates and postdoctoral fellows.

**Objective 1:** To lead in the percentage of PhD graduates who obtain postdoctoral fellow appointments, and in PhD graduates and postdoctoral fellows who obtain university faculty positions or research scientist positions in industry.

**Objective 2:** To lead in publication quality and rate and grant success of PhD graduates and postdoctoral fellows.

## **Focus Area 2: Championing Clinical Innovation**

**Goal 3:** Recognition as a national leader in the provision of innovative clinical experiences and clinical services in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.

**Objective 1:** To enhance existing experiences and create new clinical experiences by increasing the scope of service delivery and populations served.

**Objective 2:** To maintain and create new clinical-research collaborations, increase the inclusion of evidence-based practice experiences across the curriculum, to build the translational research base, and to enhance interprofessional education and collaborative practice opportunities.

**Objective 3:** To lead in the development of engagement opportunities with local, national, and global impact.

**Objective 4:** To develop clinical and curricular experiences and activities addressing person-centered care, and to increase cultural humility and cultural responsiveness among students.

**Objective 5:** To support students in becoming general practitioners or specialists.

### **Focus Area 3: Excelling in Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Education**

**Goal 4:** Recognition as a national and international leader in preparing and supporting PhD students to become independent scholars, educators, and leaders for the future.

**Objective 1:** To foster and promote multidisciplinary research experiences for PhD students that help develop critical thinking skills and mastery of the tools/techniques necessary for innovative research and successful dissemination of the work.

**Objective 2:** To provide PhD students with experience in the preparation of career-appropriate research grant proposals aimed at external agencies.

**Objective 3:** To enhance effective teaching by PhD students via supervised opportunities as guest lecturers and/or course instructors.

**Objective 4:** To foster an encouraging, supportive, collaborative, and inclusive environment for PhD students to thrive as members of the broader academic community.

**Objective 5:** To integrate and enrich PhD curriculum to provide effective and efficient training and mentoring.

**Objective 6:** To grow and diversify PhD enrollment through greater education and outreach efforts.

### **Focus Area 4: Providing Outstanding Graduate Professional (MS/AuD) Education**

**Goal 5:** Recognition as a national leader in educating graduate professional students who are scholars, advocates, and exceptional practitioners that lead in their professions and communities.

**Objective 1:** To promote a culture of continuous growth and life-long learning.

**Objective 2:** To build and maintain a climate of inclusion where all individuals in SLHS and the community are actively supported.

**Objective 3:** To prepare students who not only understand the importance of evidence-based practice, but also actively seek and apply evidence as the basis for clinical decision-making, and participate in scholarly dissemination.

**Objective 4:** To develop students who advocate for their profession and clients and actively participate in professional associations.

**Objective 5:** To cultivate students and future practitioners who demonstrate competency in interprofessional collaborative skills.

## **Focus Area 5: Fostering Exceptional Undergraduate Education**

**Goal 6:** Recognition as a national leader in facilitating opportunities for undergraduate students to realize their career goals within and outside the speech, language, and hearing sciences professions.

**Objective 1:** To increase experiential learning by expanding opportunities for clinical, research, and community outreach participation.

**Objective 2:** To optimize and innovate course offerings for majors to complete their requirements and graduate within 4 years.

**Objective 3:** To improve foundational skills, such as critical thinking, writing, and information literacy.

**Objective 4:** To recruit and support more students through greater education and outreach efforts.

**Objective 5:** To increase emphasis on equity, diversity, and inclusion in curricular and extracurricular experiences.

## **Focus Area 6: Cultivating Alumni Engagement**

**Goal 7:** Creation of a culture of philanthropy and alumni engagement within SLHS.

**Objective 1:** To cultivate and sustain relationships with current students and alumni.

**Objective 2:** To continuously engage SLHS alumni and friends and to send the strong message that diversity, equity, and inclusion are core values in SLHS.

**Objective 3:** To create a culture of philanthropy and giving back to SLHS.