Strategic Plan for the Speech-Language Pathology Graduate Program

2017

The mission of the graduate program in Speech-Language Pathology is to further the understanding of human communication and its disorders and to contribute to the advancement of the field of Speech-Language Pathology through clinical practice, research and professional development. The program strives to prepare Speech-Language Pathologists who provide quality services across the lifespan, engage in intellectual discovery, and give back to the profession and their communities.

This mission will be achieved by:

Goal 1: Providing innovative, quality speech-language pathology services to the region

Objective: Continue enhancement and improvement of clinical programs available for student and faculty participation

Benchmark: Offer 2 new group therapy experiences at the SLHC
Benchmark: Offer LSVT services
Benchmark: Submit one grant to support clinic services
Benchmark: Explore new external contracts
Benchmark: Explore use of new technology for integrating video technology with clinical teaching

Objective: Increase public awareness of clinic services

Benchmark: Transform the clinic website
Benchmark: Initiate one new marketing initiative to increase patient referral base
Benchmark: Participate in community health fairs
Benchmark: Post opportunities to be a research participant
Benchmark: Solicit public input on clinic services as it relates to ASHA reaccreditation process

Fits with AHCD Goal 2: Increase alumni employment opportunities
Fits with AHCD Goal 4: Increase revenue streams
Fits with College Goal 1: Diversify revenue sources to enhance revenue and increase revenue stability
Fits with College Goal 3: Assure CHHS program excellence and accreditation
Fits with University Bold Futures Pillar 3: NIU Financial and Program Viability

Goal 2: Creating an environment that fosters scholarly activities and critical thinking

Objective: Highlight faculty research activity

Benchmark: Post notice of faculty publications in NIU newsletters and faculty meeting agendas
Benchmark: Submit publications to the college office
Benchmark: Post publications on research gate
Benchmark: Participate in AHCD research day
Benchmark: One faculty member will present research in a forum on campus
Benchmark: Publicize opportunities to be a research participant

Objective: Collaborate with external constituents regarding research
Benchmark: Develop a research relationship with one new external facility

Objective: Increase student participation in research opportunities
Benchmark: 2 students will initiate a thesis
Benchmark: 2 students will complete theses
Benchmark: 2 students will present at a professional conference
Benchmark: Notify students of research presentations and participation opportunities occurring across campus
Benchmark: Announce opportunities to be a research participant
Benchmark: Students will help collect outcome data on clinical programs/translational research

Objective: Increase grant applications.
Benchmark: Submit one external research grant.
Benchmark: Submit one internal research grant

Objective: Enhancement of case based curriculum across the scope of practice
Benchmark: case studies in COMD 674 will be enhanced

Objective: Attend grant writing workshop
Benchmark: 1 faculty member will attend a grant writing workshop

Objective: Increase students’ ethical awareness and decision making skills
Benchmark: Provide one interdisciplinary case discussion for students with an ethical dilemma

Fits with AHCD Goal 1: Develop ethical student leadership/advocacy
Fits with AHCD Goal 3: Create an environment that supports faculty research
Fits with AHCD Goal 4: Increase revenue streams
Fits with College Goal 2: Increase CHHS extramural funding and research productivity
Fits with College Goal 3: Assure CHHS program excellence and accreditation
Fits with University Bold Futures Pillar 3: NIU Financial and Program Viability
Fits with University Bold Futures Pillar 4: Ethically Inspired Leadership

Goal 3: Facilitating involvement in professional, alumni and community organizations

Objective: Highlight faculty involvement and participation in professional and community organizations
Benchmark: Faculty will give summaries of ASHA and ISHA conferences in COMD 687:
Benchmark: Students will be sent emails when faculty present or attend professional meetings
Benchmark: All Faculty will post certification/licensure credentials on our website
Benchmark: 75% of faculty will be committee members, in leadership positions or serve as reviewers for a national and/or international professional organization/publication

Objective: Increase student participation in professional organizations
Benchmark: Notify students of at least 3 regional conference opportunities
Benchmark: Explore student funding for students to attend conferences:
Benchmark: 5 students will attend a professional conference.
Benchmark: Invite at least 2 alumni to speak about professional involvement
Benchmark: Notify students of professional practice alerts and discuss role of professional organizations
Benchmark: Organize one faculty presentation about their involvement in professional organizations
Benchmark: Post opportunities for international experiences

Objective: Increase participation in international collaborations
Benchmark: Develop one international collaboration experience
Benchmark: Explore external funding options for students’ international work

Objective: Develop NIU as a regional choice for professional development
Benchmark: Offer two continuing education experiences that have participant fees
Benchmark: Renew credentials as an ASHA CEU provider

Objective: Increase relations with alumni and stakeholders
Benchmark: Facilitate COMD information in college newsletters
Benchmark: Explore ways to use social media for alumni communication.
Benchmark: Invite external supervisors to graduation reception
Benchmark: Complete external site visits
Benchmark: Explore hosting an alumni event at ISHA in February 2018

Objective: Provide students opportunities prior to graduation that prepare them for future employment
Benchmark: Provide two lectures from career services
Benchmark: Invite at least two alumni to speak in classes about career opportunities
Benchmark: All students will complete at least three different external practica

Objective: Promote an atmosphere of equity in student learning and leadership
Benchmark: COMD faculty will complete Student Conduct Board Diversity Training
Benchmark: Hold 1 informal student/faculty gathering each semester
Benchmark: Create a blackboard community to increase communication amongst faculty and students
Benchmark: Pair new graduate students with a second year student mentor.
Benchmark: Create an application for students to become undergraduate mentors
Benchmark: Assess student learning in activities related to human diversity

Fits with AHCD Goal 1: Develop ethical student leadership/advocacy
Fits with AHCD Goal 2: Increase alumni employment opportunities
Fits with AHCD Goal 4: Increase revenue streams
Fits with College Goal 1: Diversify revenue sources to enhance revenue and increase revenue stability
Fits with College Goal 3: Assure CHHS program excellence and accreditation

Fits with University Bold Futures Pillar 1: Student Career Success
Fits with University Bold Futures Pillar 2: Thriving Communities
Fits with University Bold Futures Pillar 3: NIU Financial and Program Viability
Fits with University Bold Futures Pillar 4: Ethically Inspired Leadership