Speech, Language and Hearing Department: Departmental Goals/Objectives
Academic Year 2011-2012

Mission: The mission of the Speech, Language and Hearing Department is to recruit, educate, and prepare engaged and responsive students in the pre-professional and professional changing scope of practice in communication sciences and disorders. Through relevant academic coursework and clinical experiences, the Speech, Language and Hearing Department inspires and challenges students toward a commitment to personal and professional development while nurturing a strong sense of respect and dignity for persons with communication, cognitive, and/or swallowing disorders. The department’s Governor George Leader Speech and Hearing Center provides the bridge between theory, practice, and service to the community.

Vision: To cultivate dynamic academic and clinical experiences to prepare and foster engaged students with knowledge and skill competency in the evolving discipline of communication sciences and disorders.

Goals: The Speech, Language and Hearing Department, as a recognized leader in superior pre-profession and professional academic and clinical training in the discipline of communication sciences and disorders, will

1. recruit and retain highly qualified students with diverse backgrounds;

2. provide a comprehensive and contemporary continuum of undergraduate and graduate curricula that offers a developmental sequence of core and specialization courses, as well as evidenced-based learning, research, and clinical experiences;

3. support students through comprehensive competent advisement and mentoring to facilitate academic progress and growth in their educational, specialization, research, and clinical training requirements toward pursuit of graduate level education and meaningful employment in communication sciences and disorders or related disciplines;

4. provide a continuum of academic, clinical, and research pre-professional and professional experiences to facilitate critical thinking, problem-solving application, and scholarship; and

5. establish collaborative educational, clinical, and professional alliances across community service delivery settings to model the importance of continuing education, clinical competence, and life-long service to the profession.
University Planning Goal I: Promote academic excellence for students as the central mission of the University by recruiting, retaining and graduating talented students from a multiplicity of cultures, backgrounds, abilities, and experiences.

CAS Goal #1: The College of Arts and Sciences will support student intellectual growth and success.

Departmental Goal: Recruit and retain highly qualified students with diverse backgrounds

Objectives:

- Maintain retention rate of incoming freshmen BA SHS students above the mean for the University.
- Establish retention rate of BA SHS juniors to seniors for last three years.
- Establish 4- and 6-year graduation rates for BA SHS students for last three years compared to total university rates.
- Establish mean and range of graduating SHS senior GPAs for last three years compared to total graduating senior GPAs.
- Establish total number of senior SHS majors who were internal (major) versus external (university) transfers for last three years.
- Maintain the number of admitted MASLP majors at 20 each year
- Maintain the number of MASLP degrees conferred

University Planning Goal II: Enhance faculty excellence through continued support of research, scholarship, and creativity.

CAS Goal #3: The College of Arts and Sciences will support scholarship across the disciplines.

Departmental Goal: Provide a continuum of academic, clinical, and research pre-professional and professional experiences to facilitate critical thinking, problem-solving application, and scholarship

Objectives:

- Maintain the involvement of at least 25% of our MASLP cohort in faculty -student professional activities (e.g., research, grant writing, presentations).
- Increase number of MASLP students pursuing thesis research by 10%
- Determine a pathway for successful thesis completion for interested MASLP students.
- Maintain summer on-line course offerings of prerequisite undergraduate courses for the MASLP.
University Planning Goal III: Enhance institutional excellence by growing and sustaining high quality academic programs.

CAS Goal #2: The College of Arts and Sciences will support program development and excellence.

**Departmental Goal:** Provide a comprehensive and contemporary continuum of undergraduate and graduate curricula that offers a developmental sequence of core and specialization courses, as well as evidenced-based learning, research, and clinical experiences

**Objectives:**
- Apply for CAA reaccreditation of the MASLP program for another eight-year cycle and schedule site visit in Fall 2012.
- Recruit and retain a full-time tenure track faculty with expertise in at least three communicative science and disorders areas.
- Outline a strategic personnel plan to recruit quality tenure-track faculty to replace present senior faculty retiring in next 10 years.
- Revise undergraduate curriculum by Spring 2012 to meet PASSHE Academic Degree Policy.
- Evaluate the graduate curriculum in anticipation of a CAA site visit in Fall 2012.
- Establish a comprehensive assessment data collection and reporting system for the SHS and MASLP programs
- Maintain ongoing data collection and assessment of the MASLP program
- Provide state-of-the-art educational and clinical facilities for the campus and the community
- Increase the diversity of off-campus clinical service delivery settings for graduate students by acquiring at least three new affiliations per year.
- Maintain faculty and student participation at University health fairs, open houses, orientation days, and homecoming events to market clinical services to underrepresented and underserved populations.

University Planning Goal IV: Provide a learning environment that promotes leadership and success for all students.

**Departmental Goal:** Support students through comprehensive competent advisement and mentoring to facilitate academic progress and growth in their educational, specialization, research, and clinical training requirements toward pursuit of graduate level education and meaningful employment in communication sciences and disorders or related disciplines

**Objectives:**
- Offer tutoring for all SHS courses by semester and monitor use of tutoring services.
- Establish number of BA SHS graduates continuing their education in graduate level programming.
• Maintain the number of MASLP graduates gaining clinical fellowship employment at 100%
• Maintain endowed scholarship funding for MASLP students.
• Provide modest monetary support for faculty scholarship and/or service involvement in professional organization leadership roles at local, state, and national levels

University Planning Goal VII: Develop new initiatives and partnerships that connect the University to the economic and social development of the region.

CAS Goal #4: The College of Arts and Sciences will support the application of knowledge both regionally and globally.

Departmental Goal: Establish collaborative educational, clinical, and professional alliances across community service delivery settings to model the importance of continuing education, clinical competence, and life-long service to the profession.

Objectives:
• Maintain continuing education opportunities for local and regional practitioners through support of the Annual Alumni Speech-Language-Hearing Conference
• Collaborate with local ASHA-certified practitioners to provide MASLP students with screening opportunities in daycare, preschool, school, and long-term care settings.
• Explore options for a comprehensive plan to operate year-round clinical services.