

SLP Strategic Plan Fall 2025- Summer of 2030
Current Accreditation Cycle 3-1-2025 through 2-28-2033

Vision

We want a reputation for being the strongest and most well-rounded undergraduate and graduate Speech-Language Pathology programs in the state of Alabama.

Mission

The mission of the programs is to establish and provide distinctive academic programs for students in Speech-Language Pathology, collaborations with community partners, and service to individuals with communication, voice, and swallowing disorders across the life span.

The programs are committed to preparing students to become dedicated, competent clinical leaders in the field of Speech Language Pathology. The Curriculum cultivates global and professional awareness and emphasizes the problem solving and critical thinking skills necessary to become strong professionals capable of serving varied client populations.

Envisioned Future

We envision a future with updated clinical technology, supervisors trained in the latest practices and offered opportunities for career development. Our undergraduate students will find success in applying to graduate programs and establishing careers. Our academic and clinic curriculums will meet and exceed the standards of The Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) and the Council for Clinical Certification (CFCC) of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association. Our graduate students will be prepared to collaborate and engage in interprofessional practice and to meet the increasing need in our country for SLPs who are highly prepared to work with individuals with communication, voice, and swallowing disorders. Our students, faculty and staff will have opportunities for self-care and appropriate work-life balance.

SLP Focus Area 1: Collaboration and Interprofessional Practice

Issue: The Department joins the College of Health Professions in August of 2025. We wish to capitalize on shared educational opportunities with our campus health care partners.

A-1 Goal Involve other campus constituents to partner with SLP in our existing interprofessional practice events.

A-1 Baseline. The department engages in 2 interprofessional practice events. One is the Bright Ideas Camp and the other is a shaken baby simulation with the Social Work program.

A-1 Strategies The department of SWSP will invite other health profession partners like nursing to participate in both events.

A-2 Goal: Develop a new medically-based simulation opportunity involving the CHP skills lab.

A-2 Baseline. The department currently does not have a simulation for Aphasia.

A-2 Strategies: Collaborate with nursing faculty to learn develop a simulation.

SLP Focus Area 2 Clinical Skills

Issue: SLP faculty all participate in clinical teaching and supervision. It is imperative that we all continue to grow our clinical skills and fuel our passion for this profession.

B-1 Goal: Two faculty members will participate in advanced training in one clinical area of their choice.

B-1 Baseline: The last advanced training for a current faculty member was in 2022

B-1 Strategies: Request additional travel monies tied to a unit plan goal. Redirect unused travel money within the department.

B-2 Goal: Each faculty member will identify a clinical area where they need some training and complete 3 CEUS in that areas.

B-2 Baseline: All faculty complete at least 12 CEUs annually, 10 of which are in any clinical area.

B-2 Strategies: Continue to fund Speechlanguagepathology.com and the SHAA convention as part of our travel funds.

SLP Focus Area 3 Technology

Issue: Technology is continuously changing and it's critical that our SLP graduates enter the workforce with the requisite technical skills.

C-1 Goal: Create and implement a new 5-year technology plan

C-1 Baseline: The program completed it's previous 5-year technology plan in 2025.

C-1 Strategies. Use existing monies and grants to replace and upgrade technology on reasonable, concrete schedule.

SLP Focus Area 4 Curriculum

Issue: Undergraduate and Graduate curriculums need to be reviewed in a timely manner to ensure currency and best practices.

D-1 Goal: Review undergraduate curriculum

D-1 Baseline. The undergraduate program has not undergone a full review in the last 5 years.

D-1 Strategies: All academic faculty serve on the curriculum committee for the program. Committee will review at least 4 similar programs as well as trends within the profession to suggest changes to our current undergraduate program.

D-2 Goal: Review graduate curriculum

D-2 Baseline: The accreditation cycle for our program is 2025-2032 and we have not had a graduate program review within this cycle.

D-2 Strategies: All academic faculty serve on the curriculum committee for the program. Committee will review at least 4 similar programs, current accreditation standards, and trends within the profession to suggest changes to our current undergraduate program.

D-3 Goal: Create a proposal for a 4 plus 1 or accelerated master's program for the MS SLP degree

D-2 Baseline: Currently there is no accelerated option for the MS SLP

D-2 Strategies: All faculty will participate in planning an acceptable pathway. The Graduate Program Coordinator will submit a proposal in Curriculog.