



# SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

Strategic Plan  
University of Louisville  
2025-2028



## Vision Statement

Our vision is to become the premier graduate educational institution for speech-language pathology in the state of Kentucky.

## Mission Statement

The mission of the speech-language pathology program is to provide students with a high-quality academic education, ensure they gain experience with a broad range of clinical populations and settings, advance the scientific foundation of the field through basic and applied research, and promote student involvement and collaboration with community partners.

## Academic Goals

- Provide a theoretical basis for the practice of speech-language pathology,
- Prepare students to enter the profession thoroughly trained to provide patient care using appropriate communication modalities,
- Present major philosophical points of view on issues in the field so students may integrate and formulate their own practice approach,
- Bring contemporary technology to bear in all situations where it is feasible and cost-effective with respect to patient care, record keeping, graduate student training and research, and
- Instill in each student the realization that continuing education is a career obligation.

## Clinical Education Goals

- Provide competencies for state-of-the-art diagnostic and therapeutic techniques over a wide range of disorders in various clinical and educational settings,
- Partner with various community service settings to provide comprehensive evidenced-based patient care,
- Provide practicum opportunities over a diverse clinical population,
- Instill in each student the notion that he/she is a member of a “team” of professionals each of whom brings their unique skills and expertise to bear on the patient’s care, and
- Instill in each student an understanding of the broader societal and professional contexts that influence the delivery of speech-language pathology services.

## Development, Implementation, and Executive Summary of the Strategic Plan:

The Strategic Plan of the speech-language pathology section aligns with the overarching missions of the University and the School of Medicine, adapting them to the specific goals of the discipline. As an accredited educational program, we are committed to providing the academic foundation and clinical training necessary for graduates to address the wide-ranging communication needs of individuals across the Louisville metropolitan area and beyond. The Preparatory Program assists students in completing prerequisite coursework required for entry into the Core Program. The Core Program delivers both classroom instruction and clinical experiences across the scope of the field. It is also designed to prepare future speech-language pathologists to provide ethical and effective services, including the ability to work with individuals from varied language backgrounds and communication styles. Our objective is to offer comprehensive, evidence-based practices in speech-language pathology through interdisciplinary collaboration and partnerships with community agencies. Additionally, we advance the field by contributing to the scientific knowledge base through basic and applied research conducted by faculty members.

In order to achieve our vision, mission, and goals, the program's strategic plan centers on four primary focus areas central to making the University of Louisville's speech-language pathology program a: GREAT place to learn, a GREAT place to work, a GREAT place to discover, and a GREAT place to connect. We will accomplish our goals in the following ways:

- **LEARN** (expand enrollment pathways in both the Preparatory and Core programs; support and enhance the undergraduate program through ongoing curriculum development and student engagement initiatives)
- **WORK** (increase professional development opportunities for faculty and staff; strengthen collegiality and communication throughout the department)
- **DISCOVER** (raise the visibility of the program through multiple platforms and outreach strategies; support a culture of research, innovation, and scholarly productivity)
- **CONNECT** (help meet the speech/language/hearing needs of the community through the development of a service-learning clinic; expand communication engagement through new affiliation agreements and increased alumni involvement)

The Strategic Plan is designed to be implemented over the course of three (3) years; however, it is evaluated annually by the faculty to ensure congruence with the strategic plans of the School of Medicine and the University collectively. The plan, itself, is disseminated to the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and other stakeholders through a link on the program's website.

# A Great Place to **LEARN**

**Strategic Goal:** The University of Louisville is a great place to LEARN because it prepares students for success now, next, and beyond. We accomplish this by supporting the whole student through transformative purpose-driven and engaged learning.

<b>Strategy L1</b>	Broaden the range of academic and experiential backgrounds among students admitted to the core/preparatory phases of the graduate program
	L1.A1: Strengthen partnerships with campus and community organizations to broaden outreach and support pathways to graduate study
	L1.A2: Expand recruitment efforts to general education courses, career fairs, undergraduate advisors, and prospective student visits to campus (f2f, virtual)
<b>Strategy L2</b>	Support and enhance the program's undergraduate program through ongoing curriculum development and student engagement initiatives
	L2.A1: Ensure undergraduate coursework aligns with graduate prerequisites by annually reviewing and updating the curriculum to maintain 100% alignment with graduate program entry requirements
	L2.A2: Offer early clinical and research experiences by providing at least two structured exposure opportunities (e.g., observation hours, faculty-led projects) for all students prior to the end of their junior year
	L2.A3: Increase undergraduate-to-graduate program transition by enhancing preparation, mentoring, and application support, aiming for a 30% annual matriculation rate
<b>Strategy L3</b>	Develop a service-learning clinic to assist with the clinical education needs of the graduate program
	L3.A1: Identify space on the HSC campus
	L3.A2: Secure funding for operations and the salary for at least one clinical supervisor (M.S. or M.A. level)

# A Great Place to **WORK**

**Strategic Goal:** The University of Louisville is a great place to WORK because it is a workplace dedicated to personal growth and professional development. We accomplish this by fostering a culture where faculty, staff, and administration live our institutional values.

<b>Strategy W1</b>	Provide faculty and staff opportunities to pursue professional growth in academic and clinical practice as well as job duties/functions
	W1.A1: Create an online database where professional education listings are posted relating to academic or clinical matters (faculty) as well as job duties/functions (staff)
	W1.A2: Provide regularly scheduled in-services on select/requested topics related to faculty and staff development
	W1.A3: Increase financial support for faculty/staff trainings, registrations, and travel for professional development
<b>Strategy W2</b>	Improve communication between faculty/staff to support operations, reduce redundancy of workload, and improve collegiality
	W2.A1: Secure a location where the department's individual programs (e.g., audiology, speech-language pathology, and otolaryngology) are housed under one roof
	W2.A2: Add one additional administrative support staff member to assist with day-to-day operations of the CMDS/AuD programs
	W2.A3: Hire a research coordinator to streamline administrative processes, support faculty research efforts, and reduce duplicative tasks across faculty and staff roles

# A Great Place to Discover

**Strategic Goal:** The University of Louisville is a great place to DISCOVER new knowledge that improves lives. We accomplish this through impactful research, innovation, scholarship, and creative activity.

Strategy D1	Expand the visibility of the program to the public and the university at large
	D1.A1: Redesign the program's website to improve the user experience, introduce the faculty/students to the community, and help publicize relevant/updated information
	D1.A2: Initiate and maintain a social media presence as well as an annual alumni newsletter
	D1.A3: Expand CEU offerings for supervisors to include varied journal group topics, research-in-progress seminars, and invited guest speakers

Strategy D2	Foster an intra- and transdisciplinary culture of research, innovation, and productivity across students and faculty
	D2.A1: Increase research collaborations with other institutions and local professionals
	D2.A2: Increase the overall number of external grant applications from program faculty
	D2.A3: Increase faculty publications in peer-reviewed journals as well as presentations at the state and national levels
	D2.A4: Increase student theses per cohort and the overall number of students involved in research activities
	D2.1A5: Increase funding for undergraduate and graduate students to work in research labs

# A Great Place to Connect

**Strategic Goal:** The University of Louisville is a great place with which to CONNECT because of its impact on the community and contributions to the well-being of Louisville, the Commonwealth, and beyond. We accomplish this through principled leadership, responsible stewardship, and engaged partnerships.

Strategy C1*	Develop a service-learning clinic to help meet the speech/language/hearing needs of the community
	C1.A1: Identify space on the HSC campus
	C1.A2: Secure funding for operations and the salary for at least one clinical supervisor (M.S. or M.A. level)
Strategy C2	Expand and strengthen community partnerships
	C2.A1: Increase the number and variety of community-based practicum sites
	C2.A2: Increase lectureship opportunities for community-based speech-language pathologists (including alumni)

\*It is important to note that C1.A1 is also an objective under the “Great Place to Learn” target.