UT HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAM IN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

Strategic Plan

2017-2022

The University of Texas Health Science Center

School of Health Professions

Master of Science Degree Program in Speech-Language Pathology

Mission and Vision

University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UT Health San Antonio)

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UT Health San Antonio) is the leading comprehensive academic health center in South Texas. UT Health consists of five schools: medicine, dentistry, nursing, health professions, and the graduate school of biomedical sciences. Our ambition is for UT Health San Antonio to be recognized among the elite academic health centers in the world.

The mission of University of Texas Health Science Center is to make lives better through excellence in education, research, health care and community engagement. Strategies for achieving this mission are:

- Educating a diverse student body to become excellent healthcare providers and scientists.
- Engaging in research to understand health and disease.
- Commercializing discoveries, as appropriate, to benefit the public.
- Providing compassionate and culturally proficient health care.
- Engaging our community to improve health.
- Influencing thoughtful advances in health policy.

The vision for UT Health is to be a world-class academic health center transforming health and health care for a diverse society.

The core values of UT Health are accountability, diversity, excellence, innovation, integrity, professionalism, teamwork and collaboration and tradition.

School of Health Professions

The mission of the School of Health Professions at the University of Texas Health Science Center is to make lives better through excellence in education, research, healthcare and community engagement. We do this through:

- Educating a diverse student body to become excellent allied health professionals and scientists;
- Advancing healthcare through research and scholarship;
- Providing outstanding healthcare services and healthcare education for our community; and
- Providing leadership for the health professions.

The four mission components of the University form the strategic pillars of the School and the basis for the strategic plan for the School and its programs. These components are excellence in:
1. Education
2. Research and scholarship
3. Service and community engagement
4. Patient care

Vision of the School of Health Professions

The vision of the School of Health Professions is to be recognized as a world-class school whose programs are among the best in the United States.

The School of Health Professions seeks to prepare outstanding health professionals and leaders, while advancing the science and practice of the health professions through research, service, and patient care. The School integrates patient care, research, scholarship and service in the teaching–learning process.

Speech-language Pathology Program

The Speech-Language Pathology Program embraces the mission, vision and values of the University of Texas Health Science Center and the School of Health Professions.

Mission of the Speech-Language Pathology Program

As an integral part of the University and School, the mission of the Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology (MS-SLP) program is to make lives better through education, research, health care, and community engagement. The MS-SLP Program will do this through:
- Educating a diverse student body to become excellent speech-language pathologists;

- Providing graduates with a broad knowledge base, expertise in evidence-based approaches, and real-world problem-solving (particularly in health care settings) experiences;
- Advancing the science and practice of speech-language pathology through research and scholarship;
- Ensuring that our students, graduates and faculty provide outstanding speech-language pathology services to our patients and community;
- Providing leadership for the speech-language pathology profession through professional service, community engagement, and community education.

Vision of the Speech-Language Pathology Program

The vision of the MS-SLP Program is to be recognized as an outstanding training and education program which prepares excellent speech-language pathologists to practice in any setting, with additional training and a focus on medical speech-language pathology.

We seek to train and educate medical speech-language pathologists who are exceptional critical thinkers and research-driven clinicians who incorporate best practices to deliver high-quality, cost-effective, and accessible speech-language pathology services. We also seek to prepare leaders in speech-language pathology, able to make contributions to their profession and the communities they serve.

Envisioned Future Scenario: 2026

By 2026, the Speech-Language Pathology Program will be a premier academic program within the School of Health Professions at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. The program will be recognized as among the best in the country, and our graduates will be sought after because of their outstanding preparation. The program and its faculty will make important contributions to the university across all four mission components: teaching, research, service, and practice. Faculty will be recognized for their expertise in medical speech-language pathology, contributions to the advancement of the science and practice of speech-language pathology through research and scholarship, and leadership in the profession as evidenced by national/international recognition in the field.

Program Goals and Strategic Plan

Strategic Goal 1 Focus Area: Excellence in Education. The speech-language pathology program at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio will demonstrate excellence in the training and education of future speech-language pathologists with a focus on medical speech-language pathology.

Attainment Strategies
1. Recruit and retain highly qualified faculty who have excellent educational credentials, an area of expertise related to medical speech-language pathology, and related professional experience to provide students an outstanding academic and clinical education.

2. Recruit, admit and graduate highly qualified students.
3. Continue to implement and revise the curriculum to ensure integration of problem-based/case-based learning, critical thinking, evidence-based practice, and interprofessional education to prepare students to be exceptional critical thinkers and research-driven clinicians able to practice in any setting, with a special emphasis on medical speech-language pathology.
4. Provide robust clinical training in an academic medical center campus environment, providing comprehensive preparation for practice in diverse clinical settings.

Outcomes, Benchmarks and Analysis Schedule

Evidence of excellence in education will include outcomes and process measures. Outcomes measures will include:

- Graduate performance on board examinations. *100% of graduates will pass their national board examinations within six months of graduation*. **Analysis schedule:** yearly beginning with the first cohort scheduled to graduate in 2019.
- Graduate satisfaction with the program (upon exit and six-month follow-up surveys*). Graduates will rate their satisfaction with the quality of the educational program on the graduate exit and six-month follow-up surveys with a mean score for each graduating class of at least 4.0 on a 5.0 point scale.* **Analysis schedule:** yearly beginning with the first cohort scheduled to graduate in 2019.
- Graduate job placement. *100% of graduates who desire to work in the field will obtain placement within six months of graduation.* **Analysis schedule:** yearly beginning with the first cohort to graduate.
- Employer satisfaction with graduates. *Employers will rate their satisfaction with the quality of the graduates on the employer satisfaction follow-up survey with a mean score for each graduating class of at least 4.0 on a 5.0 point scale.* **Analysis schedule:** yearly beginning with the first cohort scheduled to graduate and 2019.
- Graduates pursuing advanced education (e.g. clinical doctorate [SLPD], research doctorate [PhD]). *Five percent of each graduating class will choose to pursue advanced graduate education in communication sciences and disorders within five years of graduation.* **Analysis schedule:** yearly beginning with the first cohort to graduate.
- Program rankings and reputation. *The program's initial ranking will be within the top 50% of nationally ranked programs on the USNWR annual rankings of graduate education programs in speech-language pathology.* **Analysis schedule:** yearly beginning with the first year the program is ranked by USNWR.
- Graduate success in achieving leadership positions in speech-language pathology. *Five percent of each graduating class will achieve leadership roles (e.g. committee membership or officers in national professional associations; clinical leadership as team leaders or supervisors) in the field of communication sciences and disorders within five years of graduation.* **Analysis schedule:** yearly beginning with the first cohort to graduate.

Process measures reviewed and monitored institutionally include applicant numbers, applicant quality, student evaluations of faculty and courses, specialized accreditation ports and reviews,

program advisory committee review, teaching awards received, and evidence of the scholarship of teaching (e.g. presentations and publications related to teaching).

<u>Strategic Goal 2</u> Focus Area: Excellence in Research and Scholarship.
The program will contribute to the discipline by participating in the discovery and dissemination of new knowledge, skills and technologies in the field of communication sciences and disorders.

Attainment Strategies
1. Provide an environment supportive of research and scholarship for faculty and students (e.g. funding, equipment, facilities, library resources, faculty mentoring, administrative support related to research).
2. Incorporate student research capstone projects into the curriculum to be performed under the guidance of faculty mentors.
3. Foster collaborative research opportunities between faculty and students across the academic health center.
4. Prepare graduates for competitive application to advanced training programs which focus on research (e.g. Ph.D.).

Outcomes, Benchmarks and Analysis Schedule

The program will make important contributions to research and scholarship as evidenced by invited presentations, peer-reviewed publications, grant submissions, grant awards, and other scholarly publications (e.g. books and book chapters, review articles).
- Invited presentations. Program faculty and students will be invited to present the results of original research at national/international scientific meetings and assemblies. *The program should average approximately one invited presentation (e.g. abstract, poster presentation, paper presentation) per core faculty member per year.* **Analysis schedule:** yearly beginning with the second year of program operations (AY 2018-2019).
- Publications in peer-reviewed journals. *The program should average approximately one publication (e.g. published abstract or paper) per core faculty member per year.* **Analysis schedule:** yearly beginning with the second year of program operations (AY 2018-2019).
- Grants. *The program should average approximately one external grant submission per year.* **Analysis schedule:** yearly beginning with the second year of program operations (AY 2018-2019).

<u>Strategic Goal 3</u>: Focus Area: Excellence in Patient Care
The program will ensure the provision of high quality clinical services to patients and communities in San Antonio and South Texas.

Attainment Strategies
1. Provide inpatient, outpatient, and community-based clinical practica training activities for students to learn and deliver high quality speech, language and hearing services to individuals of all cultures, ages, and abilities.

2. Develop and maintain community partnerships to help meet the needs of the community while providing students with a wide range of excellent educational, professional, and research experiences.

Outcomes, Benchmarks and Analysis Schedule

The program will make important contributions to patient care by providing outstanding clinical experiences for our students, and providing the training and education to develop the speech-language pathology workforce necessary to provide high-quality, accessible, and cost-effective care and services. In addition, faculty will participate in faculty practice opportunities as appropriate.

- Quality clinical services. *Clinical preceptors' evaluation of students' delivery of clinical services will be a satisfactory rating for each student for each clinical rotation.* **Analysis schedule:** yearly beginning with the second year of program operations (AY 2018-2019).
- Faculty practice. *Program faculty will participate in School of Health Professions faculty practice activities by seeing patients at least quarterly.* **Analysis schedule:** yearly beginning with the second year of program operations (AY 2018-2019).

Strategic Goal 4 **Focus Area: Excellence in Service and Community Engagement.** The program will make important contributions in the areas of professional service and community engagement.

Attainment Strategies
1. Faculty will participate in the development and implementation of community service activities for students enrolled in the program.
2. Faculty will provide leadership in professional and academic service as a part of the School of Health Professions Faculty Incentive Plan (FIP).

Outcomes, Benchmarks and Analysis Schedule

Service activities will include:
- Faculty service on departmental, school and university committees. *Each program faculty member will participate in at least one school or university faculty governance related activity each year.* **Analysis schedule:** yearly beginning with the second year of program operations (AY 2018-2019).
- Faculty service to public bodies (local, state, national governmental bodies). *Program faculty will volunteer to serve on appropriate local, state, and national public bodies, as opportunities arise.* **Analysis schedule:** yearly beginning with the second year of program operations (AY 2018-2019).
- Faculty service to state and national professional societies and associations. *Program faculty will serve on appropriate state, and national professional societies and associations related to speech-language pathology. These may include:*
  - *Offices and boards*
  - *Committees and committee chairmanships*
  - *Task forces*

- *Editorial boards*
- *Journal reviewerships*
- *Accreditation agencies*
- *Credentialing agencies*

Analysis schedule: yearly beginning with the second year of program operations (AY 2018-2019).

The Strategic Plan for the Speech-Language Pathology Program is congruent with the Strategic Plan of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and the School of Health Professions. The plan has been reviewed and approved by the Dean of the School of Health Professions at UT Health San Antonio for implementation over the 2017-2022 period.

The plan is posted on the UT Health web-site, UT Health School of Health Professions Portal and results of outcomes measures (benchmarks) for the plan are made available to faculty, students, and staff as these measures are collected (see analysis schedule above).