Strategic plan for the UT Tyler Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences programs

BS CSD, MS SLP, and Speech, Language, and Hearing Clinic

Vision

To be a nationally recognized clinical and academic training program designed to enhance healthcare, education, and quality of life in East Texas.

Mission

To prepare highly qualified clinicians who think critically, serve compassionately, and practice ethically for the betterment of the East Texas community.

The Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences program faculty and staff regularly review the strategic plan to ensure that our goals align with those of the University of Texas at Tyler. The faculty and staff met in July of 2025 to revise the strategic plan to more closely align with the University's refreshed strategic plan (2024).

SLHS Strategic Goals, Objectives, and Outcomes

Goal 1:

- University goal: Prepare students for the workforce
- **SLHS goal: Prepare students for the workforce**

Priorities	Objectives (action steps)	Outcomes
Provide MS SLP students with academic and clinical education experiences and training embedded in the family medicine practice at the UT Tyler HSC campus	• Clinic opened January 2025 • First graduate cohort begins August 2025	Student surveys Clinical clock hours (count) Clinical performance ratings

Increase interprofessional practice opportunities for faculty and students by collaborating with the UT Tyler School of Medicine, School of Nursing, and other UT Health East Texas providers	• Participate in medical resident didactic presentations to educate residents about the scope of practice in speech language pathology and audiology • Create interprofessional assessment teams for neurodevelopmental disorders and dementia	Medical resident didactic presentations (at least 1 per semester) Number of teams created
Develop a network of externship sites and clinical supervisors to ensure that students gain a variety of clinical experiences in multiple settings with various patient populations across the lifespan	• Host CEU events at UT Tyler (topics based on community needs, included but not limited to bilingual/multilingual service provision, supervision, ethics) • Collaborate with external stakeholders such as the UT Tyler Nurse Family Partnership, Tyler ISD, and other programs to conduct speech, language, and hearing screenings	Site placement agreements External collaborations for hearing screenings and speech/language evaluations

Goal 2:

- University goal:
    - Strengthen research infrastructure and support research that enriches our students and serves our community
        - Support research that directly increases experiential opportunities for our undergraduate and graduate students
        - Support research tied directly to improving the health and wellness of the region and training the next generation of healthcare professionals, especially by leveraging our clinical partnership to attract industry sponsored clinical research trials
- **SLHS goal: Increase undergraduate and graduate student involvement in applied clinical research**

Priorities	Objectives (action steps)	Outcomes
Increase graduate student research opportunities with academic faculty and staff	Hire another tenure-track faculty member to create more opportunities for student research	All graduate students will present grand round presentations at university research events.

		Faculty increase
Integrate student research opportunities into the curriculum	Revise final comprehensive written exams based on grand-rounds-style single case study research presentations	Four comprehensive summative assessments (mastery criteria of at least 80% on each)

Goal 3:

- University goal:
    - Expand student success initiatives focused on retention, degree completion, and flexible programming
        - Continue to develop more flexible degree pathway opportunities for baccalaureate programs, credit for prior learning, and co-enrollment partnerships with community colleges
        - Accelerate the use of digital technology in delivery of education, such as online and hybrid course offerings
- **SLHS goal: Develop flexible degree pathway opportunities for baccalaureate program and accelerate the use of digital technology in the delivery of education**

Priorities	Objectives (action steps)	Outcomes
Increase conscious use of technology in the delivery and accessibility of the curriculum	• Create a fully online BS CSD • Faculty will work with the University's Office of Digital Learning to ensure that undergraduate courses are optimized for simultaneous live and virtual synchronous online delivery • Program faculty will complete the Office of Digital Learning Online Teacher Training	A fully online, synchronous BS CSD degree to increase reach of the university and access for students Faculty obtain online teacher training certifications
Assess graduate faculty course evaluations with a specific focus on student satisfaction regarding delivery of course content	Faculty will work with Office of Digital Learning to ensure their course delivery technology is up to date and aligns with best practices	Student mid-semester surveys Student end of semester course evaluations

Goal 4:

- University goal: Ensure UT Tyler is meaningfully engaged with the East Texas community
- **SLHS goal: Expand services offered by the SLHC**

Priorities	Objectives (action steps)	Outcomes
Expand audiology services	• Purchase evoked potentials/ABR equipment to conduct failed newborn hearing screening follow-ups • Purchase equipment to provide vestibular audiology services	Patients no longer having to go to Dallas for their failed newborn hearing screening follow-ups Patients receiving vestibular audiology services
Increase patient caseloads to enable us to hire a clinical educator (focus on bilingual/multilingual service delivery)	• Create a three-year-plan to identify or cultivate a bilingual service provider who can join our clinical education faculty	Clinical educator addition Increased service provisions for bilingual/multilingual populations

Goal 5:

- University goal: Ensure UT Tyler is meaningfully engaged with the East Texas Community
- **SLHS goal: Expand the reach and outreach of the SLHC**

Priorities	Objectives (action steps)	Outcomes
Increase internal and external referrals	Emphasize marketing efforts to increase internal and external referrals	Number of SLHC referrals (internal and external)
Increase support for caregivers and patients with communication disorders in East Texas	• Create a rotation of SLP students to attend various clinical population support groups in the community • Create a social communication support group for pediatric populations who have difficulty with pragmatic language use • Create a Speak Out! Maintenance group (all first-year MS SLP students have been granted free Speak Out! Training by the Parkinson's Voice Project)	Number of support groups Community member attendance at support groups

Encourage partnerships with community stakeholders and organizations that would benefit from SLHC services provided by MS SLP students	• Provide speech, language, and hearing screenings in the East Texas community • Pursue relationships and partnerships with external stakeholders to increase visibility of the SLHC	Number of speech, language, and hearing screenings conducted in the community Other partnerships formed

Goal 6:

- University goal: Enhance teaching practices and strengthen faculty-student interactions
  - Grow professional development programs to stay abreast of best-in-class teaching methods
  - Regularly review academic program curricula to address emerging workforce demands
- **SLHS goal: Enhance teaching excellence**

Priorities	Objectives (action steps)	Outcomes
Monitor and maintain excellence in teaching	• Faculty will analyze their mid-semester and end-of-course evaluations to identify areas of growth • Annual peer evaluations conducted for pre-tenure, struggling tenured professors, and adjunct faculty	Student mid-semester surveys Student end of semester course evaluations Annual faculty review Peer evaluations
Promote scholarship of teaching and learning	• All program faculty will complete the year-long ACUE E Effective Practice Framework course, a year-long teaching intensive that promotes faculty to design or redesign their courses to adhere closely to the most updated research and effective practices in pedagogy	Participation in continuing education for teaching and learning
Strengthen student outcomes	• All program faculty will work with the Curriculum Design Team at UT Tyler to ensure their courses align with best practices for maximal student learning outcomes	Student learning outcome progress Graduate student progress toward licensure standards

	• All program faculty will monitor student progress toward specific learning outcomes and adjust curriculum delivery as needed	