



UT TylerTM

**SCHOOL OF
HEALTH PROFESSIONS**

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

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 department strategic plan is closely aligned with the University's strategic plan. In June 2026, the faculty and staff reviewed and made minor revisions to the department strategic plan. .

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clinic opened January 2025• First graduate cohort begins August 2025	<p>Student surveys</p> <p>Clinical clock hours (count)</p>

family medicine practice at the UT Tyler HSC campus		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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>Medical resident didactic presentations (at least 1 per semester)</p> <p>Number of teams created</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>Site placement agreements</p> <p>External collaborations for hearing screenings and speech/language evaluations</p>

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	Retain 3 term-tenure/tenured faculty needed to create sustained opportunities for student research	All graduate students will present grand round presentations at university research events. Number of students assisting research faculty with their research.
Integrate student research opportunities into the curriculum	Continue with 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	Faculty will work with Office of Digital Learning to ensure their course delivery	Student mid-semester surveys

Revised June 2026

satisfaction regarding delivery of course content.	technology is up to date and aligns with best practices in student engagement.	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchased evoked potentials/ABR equipment to conduct failed newborn hearing screening follow-ups <u>(met February 2026)</u> • Purchased equipment to provide vestibular audiology services <u>(met February 2026)</u> • Collaborate with physical therapy to reduce risk for falls and treatment of vestibular disorders. • Provide hearing device dispensing services for pediatric patients birth to age 20 to meet critical access to care needs in East Texas. • Become a cochlear implant programming center in East Texas • Create a sustained patient pipeline. 	<p>Patients no longer having to go to Dallas for their failed newborn hearing screenings and follow up.</p> <p>Patients receiving vestibular audiology services and collaborating with PT.</p> <p>Pediatric patients covered by all payors and Texas Medicaid will have access to pediatric audiology and hearing devices in East Texas Cochlear implant programming services available in East Texas for pediatric patients</p>
Increase patient caseloads to enable us to hire a clinical educator (focus on bilingual/multilingual service delivery)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a three-year-plan to identify or cultivate a bilingual service provider who can join our clinical education faculty and/or be extern site supervisors. 	<p>Clinical educator addition</p> <p>Increased service provisions for bilingual/multilingual populations</p>

Goal 5:

Revised June 2026

- 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) 	<p>Number of support groups</p> <p>Community member attendance at support groups</p>
Encourage partnerships with community stakeholders and organizations that would benefit from SLHC services provided by MS SLP students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide speech, language, and hearing screenings in the East Texas community • Pursue relationships and partnerships with external stakeholders to increase visibility of the SLHC 	<p>Number of speech, language, and hearing screenings conducted in the community</p> <p>Other partnerships formed</p>

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-	Student mid-semester surveys

	<p>course evaluations to identify areas of growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual peer evaluations conducted for pre-tenure, struggling tenured professors, and adjunct faculty 	<p>Student end of semester course evaluations</p> <p>Annual faculty review</p> <p>Peer evaluations</p>
Promote scholarship of teaching and learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All program faculty will complete department approved professional development in teaching, such as the ACUE Effective Practice Framework Summer Intensive course, which provides instruction in research-based effective pedagogical practices. 	<p>Participation in continuing education for teaching and learning</p>
Strengthen student outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All program faculty will incorporate into each course they are assigned 2 to 3 best practice teaching strategies shown in the SoTL research to increase critical thinking. • All program faculty will monitor student progress toward specific learning outcomes and adjust curriculum delivery as needed 	<p>Student learning outcome progress</p> <p>Graduate student progress toward licensure standards</p>