

Fall 2024 – Spring 2025

SLHS Mission: To advance knowledge of language and communication science and related disorders through teaching, research, and service. We accomplish this through the combined efforts of faculty and students at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

SLHS Vision: Transform, Innovate, Operate (from 2016 – 2021)

SLHS Strategic Plan Goals

1. Provide state of the art clinical and non-clinical graduate education
 - a. Objectives
 - i. Provide excellent graduate instruction that prepares students for the workforce by achieving 80% summative exam pass rate
 - ii. Provide an excellent educational experience for graduate students by achieving 80% satisfaction rate in exit interviews
 - b. Strategies
 - i. Conduct annual program reviews of academic and clinical curriculum
 - ii. Conduct exit interviews annually
 1. Discuss student concerns at department meetings
 2. Determine if student concerns warrant action items
 - iii. Hold regular Teaching and Learning group meetings
 - iv. Regular peer review of Teaching for clinical and academic faculty
 - v. Chair review of course evaluations and follow-up with faculty
 - vi. Conduct annual externship surveys to off campus supervisors
 1. Determine action steps from externship feedback survey
 - vii. Provide our graduate students with clinical inter-professional education (IPE) opportunities.
 1. Collaborate with the Occupational Therapy Program for the annual SOAR summer camp
 2. Expand IPE offerings, e.g. collaborate with PT and OT at GWU
 - c. Timeline: Ongoing with annual report to department
 - i. Review of goal, objectives, strategies, and progress toward objectives will be performed in the Fall semester of each academic year
 - d. Performance Indicators
 - i. High satisfaction with exit interviews
 - ii. Externship supervisor feedback about students
 - iii. Positive student and peer course evaluations
 - iv. High summative exam pass rate
 - v. High pass rate of Praxis
 - vi. High employment rate
 - vii. Increased number of applicants for admission

2. Ensure excellence in undergraduate education that promotes critical thinking, cross-cultural perspectives and oral communication skills
 - a. Objectives
 - i. Increase total number in SLHS undergraduate enrollment across all undergraduate courses
 - ii. Increase number of SLHS majors to 20 students
 - b. Strategies
 - i. Determine baseline enrollment in undergraduate courses by course and section
 - ii. Meet with advisors from related fields to promote undergraduate courses and majors
 - iii. Advertise majors and courses at undergraduate events
 - iv. Review peer and student course evaluations and develop improvement plans
 - v. Yearly program evaluation in department meetings
 - vi. Regular meetings (minimum one per semester) to evaluate program statistics (course offerings, enrollment, explore ways to increase enrollment)
 - vii. Yearly meeting with UG majors and minors to track progress
 - viii. Professional development opportunities: Participation of faculty in SLHS Teaching and Learning group and Instructional Design Courses
 - c. Timeline: Ongoing with annual report to department
 - i. Review of goal, objectives, strategies, and progress toward objectives will be performed in the Fall semester of each academic year
 - d. Performance indicators
 - i. Number of undergraduate students enrolled in SLHS courses
 - ii. Number of SLHS majors
 - iii. Positive teaching evaluations from students and peers
3. Increase and expand research productivity through transformative, interdisciplinary research initiatives
 - a. Objectives
 - i. Increase number of external funding applications
 - ii. Increase number of faculty participating in research activities
 - iii. Increase number of undergraduate and graduate students in research activities
 - iv. Increase number of peer-reviewed research publications
 - v. Increase number of national/international research presentations
 - b. Strategies
 - i. Develop interdisciplinary research teams and research goals
 - ii. Budget and request seed grant fund distribution from dean's office
 - iii. Develop procedures for annual reporting and requesting funds
 - iv. Faculty meetings Spring 2024 to brainstorm research groups among faculty

- c. Timing: Ongoing, with annual RFPs, budgets, and reports to faculty
 - i. Review of goal, objectives, strategies, and progress toward objectives will be performed in the Fall semester of each academic year
 - d. Performance Indicators
 - i. Number of applications submitted for external funding
 - ii. Number of faculty actively participating in research
 - iii. Number of students actively participating in research
 - iv. Number of peer reviewed publications per year
 - v. Number of national/international research presentations per year
4. Maintain existing initiatives and expand initiatives for international engagement
- a. Objectives
 - i. Maintain or expand study abroad opportunities for students to 1-2 opportunities per academic year
 - ii. Engage students in internationally based research and scholarship by participation in at least one international project per academic year
 - iii. Host at least 1 international student for engagement in research and clinical coursework every 2 academic years.
 - b. Strategies
 - i. Solicit new proposals for study abroad opportunities for students and/or renew current plan and submit to department committee for review
 - ii. Work with Dean's office to explore options for increasing number of students participating in study abroad opportunities
 - iii. Explore opportunities to host international students and faculty
 - iv. Poll students on interest in program as an elective annually
 - v. Work with international partners and department to develop STAP proposal to Dean's office for approval annually
 - vi. Plan and conduct annual STAP
 - vii. Get student feedback after each trip
 - viii. Expand international collaborations to facilitate opportunities in addition to established Mexico course
 - c. Timing: Ongoing; committee updates department and reviews status annually
 - i. Review of goal, objectives, strategies, and progress toward objectives will be performed in the Fall semester of each academic year
 - d. Performance Indicators:
 - i. Continuation of Short-Term Study Abroad Program (Mexico)
 - ii. Number of new study abroad opportunities
 - iii. Number of students engaged in internationally based research and scholarship
 - iv. Number of international students and faculty engaged in research and clinical coursework from international institutions
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Executive Summary

Department Strategic Plan

This strategic plan outlines key initiatives aimed at advancing the department's mission in graduate and undergraduate education, research productivity, and international engagement. This plan provides a structured approach to achieving academic excellence, fostering research innovation, and promoting global engagement, ensuring the department's continued growth and impact in the field.

1. Excellence in Graduate Education

The department is committed to providing state-of-the-art clinical and non-clinical graduate education that prepares students for the workforce. Key initiatives include regular curriculum reviews, student feedback mechanisms, and faculty development programs. Success will be measured through student exit interviews, externship feedback, course evaluations, and summative exam pass rates.

2. Advancing Undergraduate Education

Efforts to strengthen undergraduate education focus on increasing enrollment, improving instructional quality, and expanding awareness of SLHS programs. The department will achieve this through targeted outreach efforts, advisor engagement, and enhanced course evaluation reviews. Performance will be tracked based on student enrollment numbers, declared majors, and teaching evaluations.

3. Expanding Research Productivity

The department seeks to foster transformative, interdisciplinary research by increasing faculty and student participation, securing external funding, and enhancing scholarly output. Strategies include forming research teams, securing seed grants, and streamlining reporting procedures. Progress will be assessed based on funding applications, faculty and student research engagement, and the number of publications and conference presentations.

4. Strengthening International Engagement

International initiatives aim to expand study abroad opportunities, increase student involvement in global research, and host international scholars. The department will explore new study abroad programs, facilitate student participation, and collaborate with the Dean's office to bring international faculty and students into research and clinical programs. Success will be evaluated through participation rates and the establishment of new international partnerships.