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Department of Speech, Language, Hearing Sciences
2024 MS SLP Strategic Plan: Executive Summary

The MS SLP Strategic Plan has been extended through 2024 (from 2022).
A two-year extension captures the program's lifecycle from startup to one of growth and development.

Vision: Graduate reflective practitioners who serve diverse populations in the clinics and classrooms of the future.

Mission: Provide a diverse urban population with an inclusive graduate program committed to the interprofessional education and cultural responsiveness of students seeking clinical certification in speech-language pathology (SLP).

Focus Area 1: Program Advancement

Long-term goal: Offer a Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology degree that is awarded initial accreditation by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.
- Outcome 1.1: Submit successful Level III: 2nd & 3rd Candidacy Annual Progress Reports.
- Outcome 1.2: Complete self-study of MS SLP program as basis of Application for Initial Accreditation.

> *Update: Recognized with candidacy (pre-accreditation) status by the CAA in May 2021. Program launched in June 2022. Submitted Level III: 1st Candidacy Annual Progress Report in August 2022, which was approved by CAA in February 2023*

Focus Area 2: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Initiatives

Long-term goal: Promote equity for minority populations with communication disorders/differences by diversifying the SLP workforce.
- Outcome 2.1: Recruit and retain students from underrepresented backgrounds.
- Outcome 2.2: Apply for extramural grants and cultivate major donor fundraising to support program/students.

> *Update: Developed a bilingual specialization focused on service delivery with Spanish-English populations. Majority of current students (n=25) are first generation, of which nearly 50% are students of color and speak two or more languages. Secured over $150k in funds for program/students.*

Focus Area 3: Community Engagement

Long-term goal: Cultivate internal and external partnerships to promote opportunities for collaborative learning.
- Outcome 3.1: Design and refine interprofessional education experiences with other university programs that prepare students for careers in education, health and/or human services.
- Outcome 3.2: Expand campus and community-based clinical training experiences
- Outcome 3.3: Identify strategies to sustain engagement of community partners.

> *Update: Opened on-campus speech-language clinic that has served more than 100 individuals across the lifespan. Offered community-based clinical training experiences at area early-learning centers and schools. Screened 300+ children in the Denver Metro area with subsequent referrals for evaluation and/or treatment. Designed clinical swallowing evaluations using standardized patients in collaboration with the Department of Nursing. Established partnerships with 27 external partners to promote collaborative learning including an outpatient clinic in Mexico.*