



Speech-Language Pathology

MSLP Annual Strategic Plan

Report of Progress: Academic Year 2023-2024

MSLP MISSION

The mission of the Austin Peay State University Master of Speech-Language Pathology program is to lead in improving the lives of persons with communication disorders residing in Tennessee and surrounding regions through preparing professionals who are highly competent with the provision of evidence-based clinical services and who can provide these services while observing the highest standards of ethics, integrity and compassionate care; and by teaching and learning in a culture that cultivates excellence and collegiality, supports diversity, inclusion, critical thinking and engages with the community in meaningful ways.

PROGRAM GOALS

1. Provide a graduate education culminating in the Master of Speech-Language Pathology that prepares students to meet the current professional standards for clinical certification and state licensure.
2. Offer graduate student clinicians' exposure to diverse clinical populations, assessment procedures, treatment methodologies and work settings.
3. Prepare graduates of the program for complex work environments, interprofessional practice, evidence-based practice and an ability to adapt to changes in the profession.
4. Develop leaders that will impact the Clarksville community, region and state by expanding clinical services provided to the community through compassionate care, outreach, education and service activities.

Faculty members, Dr. Kleinhans, Dr. Bancroft, Ms. Brandon, Ms. Whittle and Ms. Bogard reviewed progress on the strategic plan at the end of the year program meeting on May 2, 2024. The team collaborated on the review and writing of this MSLP Annual Strategic Plan Report of Progress. The four program goals were reviewed in the context of five strategic priorities. A summary of progress for each strategy is provided below.

Progress Strategy 1: Recruit, develop and retain faculty, staff, and community partners that will support program success and sustainability

Faculty have made significant progress toward achieving the Master of Speech-Language Pathology (MSLP) mission and meeting the program goals. The program benefits through the support of Dr. Leszczak, the Health and Human Performance Department Chair, Dr. Dylann Williams, Dean of the

College of Behavioral and Health Sciences, and Dr. Cronley, the Provost and Senior VP of Academic Affairs. Strategy 1 and objectives that follow all focus on the power of people and partnerships to develop and sustain the MSLP program. The MSLP program faculty composition for the AY 2023-2024 included two doctorally prepared faculty and three master's prepared faculty. The two three-year master's prepared clinical assistant professor positions were filled for the August 2024 year. The number of clinical affiliation agreements continues to increase. Efforts to develop faculty scholars has been successful as evidenced by faculty manuscript submissions, presentations and grants awarded.

Progress Strategy 2: Deliver exceptional and effective academic and clinical programs

Significant progress with objectives of Strategy 2 were made during the AY. Additional clinical materials, equipment, and sites were acquired to enhance clinical education. Additional collaborative partnerships, formal and informal were made with campus and community partners to develop and offer competency based clinical experiences. Interdisciplinary learning experiences including functional communication training and Grand Rounds were provided. The program launched the MSLP Student Advisory Council. The Competency Examinations policy and procedures have been revised based on student feedback and faculty reflection.

Progress Strategy 3: Develop logistics that support and strengthen program development, implementation, delivery, and evaluation

The MSLP program has submitted and received feedback on the second Annual Report submitted to the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA). The program continues to be in compliance with the standards at the expected level of development. The APSU Speech-Language & Swallowing Community Clinic, located at 255 Marion St. opened in the fall of 2022. The facility is a 2100 square foot building with 9 treatment areas and additional clinical spaces. The MSLP program also assumed apartment 8 above the clinic for office space and conference room for clinical education. The MSLP program has published the third revision of the official MSLP Student Handbook which was reviewed at all the required administrative levels for approval. Technology for clinical support and student tracking has all been instituted.

Progress Strategy 4: Lead in service and collaborative activities within the APSU, local, state, and national communities to improve the lives of those with communication disorders

Work on this strategy continues using service delivery data associated with the APSU Speech-Language & Swallowing Community Clinic via the newly adopted CALIPSO.

Progress Strategy 5: Engage in activities designed to improve the quality of the program

The faculty continue to use the adopted rubric to evaluate alignment and progress of the MSLP mission, strategic plan and program goals. This information is combined with faculty meetings, review of student learning outcomes and input from community partners and the student advisory council. Faculty will use Qualtrics, Austin Peay's online survey tool, to distribute and analyze surveys to students, graduates and employers. The MSLP program must comply with the Survey Policy and Oversight Committee Survey Administration Policy (2:062).