Executive Summary

Guided by the Mission and Vision of the Department of Speech Language and Hearing Sciences (SLHS) at the University of Florida (UF), the development of which was directly informed by the Mission and Vision Statements of the UF and the College of Public Health and Health Professions, the SLHS Strategic Plan was developed from an desire to provide state of the art and evidence-based graduate education in audiology and speech-language pathology. A department-wide effort was used to create this Strategic Plan and will also be required to achieve full implementation. SLHS used identified strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to guide the development of this plan to achieve the department’s vision. Successful implementation of the Strategic Plan will require a commitment from all faculty and staff in SLHS. We believe this plan will allow the department to achieve its mission to prepare audiologists and speech-pathologists for clinical practice in the 21st century.

University of Florida Mission Statement: To enable our students to lead and influence the next generation and beyond for economic, cultural and societal benefit.

College of Public Health and Health Professions Mission Statement: To shape tomorrow’s public health and health professionals through dynamic and responsive educational programs, transformational research, groundbreaking discoveries, and equitable health-related service. Our collaborations within the College and beyond advance the breadth of knowledge, the quality of science, and the attainment of professional distinction.

Department of Speech Language Hearing Sciences Mission Statement: To prepare students to become audiologists and speech-language pathologists who work to preserve, promote, and improve the functioning and general well-being of individuals in the areas of hearing, communication and swallowing.

Theme 1: Provide educational programs centered on strong scientific evidence and opportunities for critical thinking skills that translate into a changing profession.

Goals: To a) enroll a diverse student body that matches the needs of the profession, b) provide students in all programs with a strong scientific basis for their learning, c) facilitate the development of critical thinking skills in all our students, and d) prepare graduates who are competitive in hearing, communication and swallowing profession.

Theme 2: Integrate clinical practice instruction, research, and teaching to provide optimal clinical training for our students.

Goals: To a) build clinical training instruction to focus on skills required to provide services effectively across disorders, b) ensure evidence-based clinical practices are being offered in our respective programs, and c) integrate student clinical training into established local clinical training networks that facilitate evidence-based knowledge.
Theme 3: Address priority health needs by conducting and disseminating research related to speech, language, hearing, swallowing.

Goals: To a) conduct cutting-edge research related to normal functioning of hearing, communication and swallowing mechanisms, as well as disordered conditions and b) conduct investigations of clinically relevant interventions designed to improve functioning of individuals with disordered hearing, communication and swallowing.

Theme 4: Advocate for full participation of individuals with hearing communication and swallowing issues as well as acceptance of individuals with these disorders.

Goals: To a) enhance the availability of screening, diagnostic, and intervention services for people with communication and related disorders and b) increase participation in community activities by individuals with communication and related disorders.

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