

Executive Summary

Pacific University Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) Strategic Plan (2024-2027)

Pacific University's Master of Science in SLP program is committed to developing exceptional critical thinkers who become leaders in their diverse communities. This strategic plan outlines the program's roadmap for 2024-2027, focusing on four primary objectives: fostering an inclusive learning environment, bridging theory with practice, developing leaders and advocates, and fostering a culture of collaboration and scholarship. To achieve these objectives, the program will:

Cultivate an Inclusive Learning Environment

- **Diversify the student body:** Implement targeted recruitment strategies, such as partnerships with historically underrepresented high school students and community organizations, to increase enrollment of students from diverse backgrounds.
- **Enhance cultural competence:** Provide comprehensive training in cultural responsiveness and humility for students, faculty, and staff.
- **Create a supportive campus climate:** Establish and maintain inclusive policies and practices to ensure a welcoming environment for all students.

Bridge Theory, Science, and Practice

- **Integrate real-world experience:** Enhance the curriculum with hands-on clinical experiences, case studies, and community-based learning opportunities.
- **Develop critical thinking skills:** Incorporate problem-solving activities, research opportunities, and simulation-based learning into the program.
- **Foster compassionate care:** Emphasize the importance of empathy, communication, and collaboration in clinical practice.

Develop Leaders and Advocates

- **Strengthen community partnerships:** Expand collaborations with community clinics and organizations to provide diverse clinical placement opportunities.
- **Integrate advocacy training:** Equip students with the skills and knowledge to champion communication access for underserved populations.
- **Promote scholarly activity:** Encourage faculty and student involvement in research, presentations, and professional organizations.

Foster a Culture of Collaboration and Scholarship

- **Advance research and scholarship:** Facilitate collaborative research projects among faculty, students, and community partners, focusing on critical issues in the field. Increase faculty and student involvement in professional organizations and conferences.
- **Build strong professional networks:** Develop robust mentorship programs connecting students

with alumni and community partners. Create opportunities for networking and knowledge sharing among CSD professionals.

- **Foster interdisciplinary collaboration:** Enhance partnerships with other academic programs to enrich the student experience and facilitate innovative research.

By implementing these strategies, the SLP program aims to prepare graduates who are ready to address the complex communication needs of diverse populations and become leaders in the field of speech-language pathology. The program will continuously evaluate its progress and make necessary adjustments to ensure ongoing success.

Key focus areas: diversity, equity, inclusion, evidence-based practice, clinical skills, community engagement, leadership development, and advocacy.