



SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

Master Speech-Language Pathology (MSLP) Strategic Plan Annual Report of Progress: Academic Year 2020-2021

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

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.

1. Offer graduate student clinicians' exposure to diverse clinical populations, assessment procedures, treatment methodologies and work settings.
2. Prepare graduates of the program for complex work environments, interprofessional practice, evidence-based practice and an ability to adapt to changes in the profession.
3. 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. Ward and Dr. Kleinhans, reviewed progress on the strategic plan at the end of the year program meeting in May of 2021. Two additional meetings in June took place in order to finish the review and for faculty to author 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

The MSLP program faculty have made progress toward meeting the program goals by implementing Strategy 1 with support from Dr. Maurer the Health and Human Performance Chairperson, Dr. Brown the 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 Master of Speech-Language Pathology (MSLP) program. APSU efforts to recruit and hire diverse faculty have been successful. Dr. Ward, a bilingual speech-language pathologist, joined the university in August of 2020. Dr. Ward possesses valuable knowledge and skills to share with faculty and students regarding methods for responsive service delivery to culturally and linguistically diverse populations. Faculty agreed the pandemic has had an impact on securing new community partners as agencies, including APSU, have had to navigate many new uncertainties on how best to safely manage their organization during these challenging times. Despite these challenges additional clinical affiliation agreements are being processed, activities with current community partners have taken place and new community partners have been identified. Efforts to develop faculty scholars has been successful as both MSLP faculty participated in the HHP journal club resulting in submission of one book proposal, two state presentations, one funded grant and one manuscript under review.

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

In April of 2021 due to the advocacy efforts of the Dr. Brown, Dean of the College of Behavioral & Health Sciences, Provost Cronley fully funded the equipment and material requests of the MSLP program. Specialized equipment was approved for purchase from the following categories: video observation and recording software for clinical education, clinic specific furniture and storage (e.g., smaller size chairs, multiuse adjustable tables, shelving), and supplemental treatment materials. Equipment and materials by diagnostic groupings included:

- Swallowing and feeding disorders
- Speech sound production, fluency, voice and resonance
- Receptive/expressive language and social aspects of communication
- Cognition
- Augmentative and alternative communication

Considerable effort was made in connecting with internal and external community partners to secure clinical affiliation agreements, develop interprofessional clinical experiences and develop innovative clinical experiences for APSU MSLP students. The purpose of the MSLP Advisory Board was established. Commitments to serve were obtained from 16 community members representing various constituencies, professional disciplines, practice settings, agencies and organizations.

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

In October of 2020, the CAA notified APSU that the university had met all eligibility requirements and was permitted to submit the Level II: Official Application for the February 2021 cycle. APSU submitted the Official Application for Candidacy to the CAA in February 2021. The original oral and written timeline provided by the CAA staff person stated a site visit would be scheduled for July 2021. A decision of candidacy status would be rendered in November 2021 at a special decision-making meeting of the CAA for candidacy programs. In an email on June 6, 2021 the program was notified that due to their delays they would be pushing the timing of the APSU MSLP candidacy site visit back, delaying the visit to Fall 2021. The APSU MSLP program would then be placed on the agenda for the CAA February 2022 meeting.

Program faculty also selected Calipso for tracking student acquisition of knowledge and skills. Faculty also completed the draft of the Expectations for Professional Conduct form. Provost Cronley funded an additional \$30,000.00 for renovation of the Marion St. Apartment Space for the APSU Speech-Language and Swallowing Community Clinic.

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 was not initiated.

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

The process and rubric to evaluate alignment and progress of the MSLP mission, strategic plan and program goals was developed in collaboration with Amanda Wornhoff, Director of institutional Effectiveness and Assessment. The written procedures and rubrics were completed in June of 2021 and will launch for evaluation during the 2021-2022 academic year. 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).