



Strategic Plan **(Updated February 2026)**

Executive Summary

The DePaul University Speech Language Pathology Program is grounded in the Vincentian tradition and urban character of DePaul University with a primary goal of serving the most vulnerable and traditionally underserved populations. Our program is poised to be a leader in the field of Speech Language Pathology using evidence-based and ethical practice to train future Speech Language Pathologists who have a particular interest in working in urban areas to address health and service delivery disparities. Our bilingual and multicultural certificate programs are one of only a handful in the United States, and with Chicago being home to one of the largest number of Spanish speaking populations in the United States, offers graduate students an exceptional opportunity to become outstanding bilingual speech-language pathologists and leaders in their communities and the profession. We offer robust interprofessional education initiatives which position our graduates to become outstanding speech-language pathologists and leaders in their communities and the profession.

This 2025-2030 Strategic Plan serves to outline the goals that the DePaul University Speech Language Pathology Program will address to accomplish our mission and vision statements that align with DePaul University's Vincentian mission and the College of Science and Health Strategic Plan. Our Strategic Plan also meets the standards of the Council for Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) for the candidacy requirements for a Master of Science degree in Speech Language Pathology

Summary of the Objectives

Maintain CAA Accreditation

The SLP Program will continuously review and evaluate curriculum to ensure alignment with best practices, competency-based education, and meeting CAA and CFCC standards. Community partnerships will be maintained and expanded to explore opportunities for potential funding for underrepresented and first-generation students. The DePaul Speech Language Clinic will continue to grow its innovative on-site clinical programs, and medical and school-based externship sites across the greater Chicagoland area will be further developed and expanded.

Establish and Grow Interprofessional Collaborations

The SLP Program will further its commitment to interprofessional education by establishing a DePaul IPE committee within the Department of Rehabilitative Sciences and Professions through maintaining and expanding didactic interprofessional coursework. Clinical collaboration between SLP and Occupational Therapy students will be formalized, and a 3+2 pathway for undergraduate in a variety of majors to graduate students will be explored. Faculty and students will continue to engage with the College of Science and Health IPE curriculum, and service-learning opportunities shared between programs will be maintained and expanded.

Explore Opportunities for Multilingual Certification

The SLP Program will evaluate its current curriculum in relation to the MULTI-C requirements to identify opportunities for all students to pursue multilingual certification. This focus area will ensure that graduates are equipped to serve the diverse, multilingual communities of Chicago and beyond, building on the program's longstanding commitment to culturally and linguistically responsive practice.

Scholarly Activities to Elevate Academic Excellence

DePaul University is committed to supporting unique academic opportunities for faculty and embraces a culture of creativity and discovery. The SLP Program will develop and sustain opportunities for faculty to grow as scholars, teachers, and leaders within the university and profession. Faculty will support student research opportunities and meaningful student-faculty research collaborations will be actively created and supported to foster a culture of scholarly inquiry at all levels of the program.

Maintain a Diverse, Equitable, and Inclusive SLP Program

Among DePaul University's core values is the high value it places on diversity, equity, and inclusion. The SLP Program will uphold these values through ongoing evaluation of a DEI-informed curriculum, promotion of an inclusive environment for students, faculty, staff, and clients, and establishment of a speaker series addressing contemporary professional issues in the field. A shared resource page for students spanning all nine ASHA practice areas will also be developed to support equitable access to assessment and treatment materials.