

Pepperdine University Speech Language Pathology Strategic Plan 2025-2030

Pepperdine University completed its 2030 strategic plan, [Pepperdine 2030: Ascend Together](#), in 2022. Arising from this plan, the University reaffirmed its mission and crafted a new vision statement. This vision calls for Pepperdine to become a preeminent, global Christian University. That bold aspiration is shaped and formed by our relentless pursuit of faith and truth together and our abiding commitment to students as the heart of the educational enterprise.

Pepperdine University Mission

Pepperdine University is a Christian university committed to the highest standards of academic excellence and Christian values, where students are strengthened for lives of purpose, service, and leadership.

Pepperdine University Vision

Pepperdine University will be a preeminent, global Christian university, known for the integration of faith and learning, whose graduates lead purposeful lives as servant-minded leaders throughout the world.

A component of the University's 2030 strategic plan (Strategic Objective 1, Goal 3) is to explore strategic opportunities—for developing new academic programs, new colleges or schools, and for building creative alliances with like-minded partners—that leverage University strengths, meet student and community needs, and advance the University's mission. In its detail, this objective specifically targets the development of a college or programs in the areas of healthcare and allied health. It is in fulfillment of this strategic objective that Pepperdine is developing a College of Health Sciences. The mission of the burgeoning college is derived from the Mission of Pepperdine University.

College of Health Sciences Mission

Pepperdine University's College of Health Sciences commits itself to the highest standards of academic excellence, clinical preparation, and Christian values to develop skilled and caring healthcare professionals who seek to lead while serving humankind.

The first academic program developed in the College of Health Sciences is in the area of Speech Language Pathology. Its mission is derived from those of the University and college, and its vision flows naturally from the University's vision.

Speech Language Pathology Mission

Pepperdine University's Speech-Language Pathology program commits itself to delivering excellence in its academic and clinical preparation programs, both grounded in Christian values, to develop skilled and caring SLPs who possess a devotion to their patients, a heart for service, and a desire to lead within the profession.

Speech Language Pathology Vision

Pepperdine University faculty and students will be leaders in the profession of speech language pathology by preparing excellent speech-language pathologists, developing distinguished faculty members, generating research that advances the field, and serving the local community.

The Speech Language Pathology program's strategic plan, a plan aligned with the animating convictions, empowering commitments, and strategic objectives of Pepperdine's 2030 strategic plan, is presented in the remainder of the document. The plan has two main components - program learning outcomes (PLOs) and four strategic objectives.

Speech Language Pathology Program Learning Outcomes

1. Integrate knowledge and skills of the prevention, identification, evaluation, and treatment of patients with speech, language, and swallowing disorders across the lifespan to become competent practitioners.
2. Apply knowledge and skills to become responsible producers and consumers of research to advance the field of SLP and improve patient outcomes through evidence-based practice.
3. Practice with the highest level of professionalism, including professional duty, accountability, ethics, service, and Christian values.
4. Communicate using interpersonal skills that honor the preferred mode of communication, cultural/linguistic backgrounds, and values of patients, families, and relevant others.

Speech Language Pathology Strategic Objectives

Four strategic objectives derived from the Mission and Vision of the Speech Language Pathology program and aligned with the Mission of the College of Health Sciences, the Mission and Vision of Pepperdine University, and Pepperdine University's 2030 Strategic Plan, Ascend Together, comprise the core of the program's 2030 strategic plan.

Strategic Objective **One**: Student Success

The SLP program exists to transform graduate students into successful SLPs, therefore their success is our first and foremost strategic objective. Ensuring student success and establishing it as our highest priority requires that we not only set high standards for students, but also support their achievement of these standards.

Objective

Graduate students will successfully complete their academic program on time and pass the Praxis SLP exam.

Strategies for Success

Multiple strategies will be utilized to facilitate timely graduation of students.

1. Faculty advisors will meet with students each semester for their advisement meeting to help them access resources and support services required to support their success in the program.
2. Remediation plans will be used for early identification and support for students who show signs of struggling in coursework.
3. A robust on-going assessment process will be utilized each semester via the Course Assessment Matrix and each year via the CLO-PLO Assessment Matrix to evaluate student progress toward the PLOs. This process will be used to identify all curricular or instructional weaknesses that need to be addressed.
4. The University's Navigate Student Success platform will be utilized to track students academic progress and ensure that faculty and all support staff have current information on the status of each student.

Two strategies will be implemented to give students the best chance of success on the Praxis SLP Examination.

1. Prior to the first cohort enrolling in the program, the Program Director and Dean will vet and select a Praxis preparation provider, such as TrueLearn or Fripty, for faculty and students to utilize throughout the length of the program.
2. Students will be required to pass a comprehensive examination at the end of the didactic phase that will mimic the breadth and depth of the Praxis SLP exam, as well as use Praxis style questions.

Metrics of Success

1. 85% of graduate students will complete the MS SLP program on time.
 - 2025/2026- no data for this year
 - 2026/2027- ___% of Cohort 1 students graduate on time
 - 2027/2028- ___% of Cohort 2 students graduate on time
 - 2028/2029- ___% of Cohort 3 students graduate on time
 - 2029/2030- ___% of Cohort 4 students graduate on time
2. 85% of program graduates will pass the Praxis SLP Exam.
 - 2025/2026- no data for this year
 - 2026/2027- ___% of students who took the Praxis between August 2026 and July 2027 pass the exam
 - 2027/2028- ___% of students who took the Praxis between August 2027 and July 2028 pass the exam
 - 2028/2029- ___% of students who took the Praxis between August 2026 and July 2027 pass the exam
 - 2029/2030- ___% of students who took the Praxis between August 2029 and July 2030 pass the exam

Strategic Objective **Two**: Professional Development

To achieve our student success objectives and fulfill the program's mission to serve students through excellence in instruction, research, and clinical practice, we must have highly competent faculty members who are actively engaged in continual professional development to improve their own knowledge and skills. As a program, we are committed to the professional development of our faculty members as a means of constant program improvement.

Objective

Faculty will regularly attend workshops, conferences, or ASHA Convention for professional development.

Strategy for Success

The Program Director and Dean will establish a professional development budget for each faculty member to fund their continuing education and development annually. Faculty may also use these professional development resources to acquire CEUs for ongoing renewal of their ASHA certification and state license.

Metric of Success

On an annual basis, every faculty member will attend at least one workshop or conference for the purpose of expanding their knowledge base or acquiring new skills aligned with their professional responsibilities.

- **2025/2026- ___% of full-time faculty attended a conference or convention for professional development, funded by Pepperdine.**
 - **Faculty 1:**
 - **Faculty 2:**
 - **Faculty 3:**
 - **Faculty 4:**
- **2026/2027- ___% of full-time faculty attended a conference or convention for professional development, funded by Pepperdine.**
 - **Faculty 1:**
 - **Faculty 2:**
 - **Faculty 3:**
 - **Faculty 4:**
- **2027/2028- ___% of full-time faculty attended a conference or convention for professional development, funded by Pepperdine.**
 - **Faculty 1:**

- Faculty 2:
- Faculty 3:
- Faculty 4:
- 2028/2029- ____% of full-time faculty attended a conference or convention for professional development, funded by Pepperdine.
 - Faculty 1:
 - Faculty 2:
 - Faculty 3:
 - Faculty 4:
- 2029/2030- ____% of full-time faculty attended a conference or convention for professional development, funded by Pepperdine.
 - Faculty 1:
 - Faculty 2:
 - Faculty 3:
 - Faculty 4:

Strategic Objective **Three**: Research & Scholarship

Speech-language pathologists with terminal degrees holding academic appointments have an obligation to produce quality research that advances the knowledge of the profession and continually and consistently improves our profession. Pepperdine University SLP faculty members are expected to maintain active research agendas through which they contribute evidence to the body of literature pertaining to their area of expertise.

Objective

Increase the number of scholarly activities that faculty engage in each year.

Strategies for Success

Three primary strategies will be used to support faculty research and scholarship.

1. Faculty workload will be set at 50% teaching effort, 20% service, 20% research, and 10% clinical duties..
2. The Program Director and Dean will establish a travel budget for each faculty member to fund their travel to professional meetings.
3. Pepperdine will provide several mechanisms to provide financial support for faculty research and scholarship. Examples of this support include funding programs to support the purchase of research equipment, software, or supplies.

Metric of Success

Every faculty member will engage in at least 1 scholarly activity annually. (Evidence of scholarly activity includes publishing a peer-reviewed research article, presenting at a professional conference, speaking at a conference, and similar activities)

- **2025/2026- ____% of full-time faculty engaged in scholarly endeavors.**
 - Faculty 1:
 - Faculty 2:
 - Faculty 3:
 - Faculty 4:
- **2026/2027- ____% of full-time faculty engaged in scholarly endeavors.**
 - Faculty 1:
 - Faculty 2:
 - Faculty 3:
 - Faculty 4:
- **2027/2028- ____% of full-time faculty engaged in scholarly endeavors.**
 - Faculty 1:
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 - Faculty 1:
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 - Faculty 4:

Strategic Objective **Four**: Service

To fulfill our mission of developing leading speech-language pathologists who glorify God by serving others, the Speech Language Pathology program must commit to a process of continual engagement and improvement regarding the quantity and quality of service we provide to the community.

Objective

SLP students and faculty members will develop service and leadership skills through volunteer efforts in the community.

Strategy for Success

At this early phase in the program's development, active on-going volunteerism is our goal in order to network with the community, build a positive reputation with stakeholders, and provide faculty and students with opportunities to refine their service and leadership skills. Volunteer efforts will be measured by the level of participation by students and faculty members.

Metric of Success

At least 80% of students and faculty members will participate in one or more volunteer activities annually.

- **2025/26: ___% of students and ___% of faculty participated in a volunteer event each year.**
- **2026/27: ___% of students and ___% of faculty participated in a volunteer event each year.**
- **2027/28: ___% of students and faculty participated in a volunteer event each year.**
- **2028/2029: ___% of students and ___% of faculty participated in a volunteer event each year.**
- **2029/2030: ___% of students and ___% of faculty participated in a volunteer event each year.**

Executive Summary of Strategic Plan

Speech language pathologists serve a vital role in our communities as they help to increase the quality of life for individuals with disabilities by improving their ability to communicate. The Speech Language Pathology program at Pepperdine University exists to equip young men and women with knowledge and skills to become competent leaders in the field of speech language pathology and to train them to compassionately serve individuals with disabilities in their local and global communities. The SLP Program at Pepperdine University accomplishes these goals by recruiting and developing distinguished faculty members who generate relevant research and strive toward excellence in their teaching and clinical practice.

Pepperdine University Mission

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College of Health Sciences Mission

Pepperdine University's College of Health Sciences commits itself to the highest standards of academic excellence, clinical preparation, and Christian values to develop skilled and caring healthcare professionals who seek to lead while serving humankind.

SLP Department Mission

Pepperdine University's Speech-Language Pathology program commits itself to delivering excellence in its academic and clinical preparation programs, both grounded in Christian values, to develop skilled and caring SLPs who possess a devotion to their patients, a heart for service, and a desire to lead within the profession.

SLP Department Vision

Pepperdine University faculty and students will be leaders in the profession of speech language pathology by preparing excellent speech-language pathologists, developing distinguished faculty members, generating research that advances the field, and serving the local community.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Integrate knowledge and skills of the prevention, identification, evaluation, and treatment of patients with speech, language, and swallowing disorders across the lifespan to become competent practitioners.
2. Apply knowledge and skills to become responsible producers and consumers of research to advance the field of SLP and improve patient outcomes through evidence-based practice.
3. Practice with the highest level of professionalism, including professional duty, accountability, ethics, service, and Christian values.

4. Communicate using interpersonal skills that honor the preferred mode of communication, cultural/linguistic backgrounds, and values of patients, families, and relevant others.

Strategic Objectives

1. Student Success: students successfully complete the program on time and pass the Praxis SLP exam.
2. Professional Development: faculty members regularly attend workshops, conferences, and the ASHA Convention to improve their scholarly and teaching skills.
3. Research: faculty members regularly engage in scholarly activities to advance the field of speech-language pathology.
4. Service: students and faculty actively engage in volunteer efforts to develop servant leadership skills and serve the community.