

**Speech-Language Pathology Graduate Program
Strategic Plan-Executive Summary
2021**

Vision

Become one of the highest ranked Speech-Language Pathology programs in the State of Illinois

Mission

To prepare students to be exceptional clinicians and leaders in the field of Speech-Language Pathology

Focus Area 1: Diversity

- We continually work with marketing regarding our website. We disseminate visitation Day information to programs in- and out- of state, including all HBCUs with undergraduate programs in communication disorders.
- As we look forward to updated our Strategic Plan in the upcoming year, we have had conversations about looking at diversity from all angles
- NBSSLHA took a hit with the pandemic.
- We have had conversations

Focus Area 2: Quality program and instruction

- Massive revisions were made to clinical component of program in response to COVID-19, including integration of tele practice offerings
- This past summer we offered a record number of electives during the summer
- Clinic utilized a variety of modalities to meet student needs through clinical simulations, F2F clients, and teletherapy
- All our 2nd year students were able to complete 3 externships while overcoming pandemic-related challenges

Focus Area #3: Research

- Faculty continue to present at national conference and include students in presentations.
- Graduated 1 thesis student who had an interdisciplinary committee

Focus Area #4: Community engagement

- The clinic continues to offer a variety of speech, language and/or hearing screenings to community organizations. Institutional resources (faculty) continues to be the barrier to more community engagement.
- Through the pandemic, we have still been able to provide hearing and speech/langauge screenings off campus