

Strategic Plan

The University of New Mexico, Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences

Strategic Plan Executive Summary

The Speech and Hearing Sciences department identified two areas of focus for strategic planning in the 2018-2019 academic year as priorities in the next two to three years. The plan was modified in Fall 2020 to include a third focus area.

1. Establish a PhD program in Speech and Hearing Sciences.

The field of speech-language pathology is experiencing a long-term, nation-wide shortage of applicants for tenure track positions and insufficient numbers of research doctoral students to meet future faculty needs. The department is in a unique position to offer a PhD program in a university with a diverse student body and high research activity. Initial approval to proceed with a proposal to establish a PhD program has been obtained, and the current plan focuses on completing a full application and the review/approval process by multiple units within the university, the Board of Regents, and state levels and laying the groundwork for admitting students in the future upon approval of the proposed program.

2. Enhance SHS graduate students' practicum experience within the UNM Speech-Language and Hearing Center.

The initial portion of speech-language pathology master's degree students is supervised in the department's clinic. Students obtain closely supervised experiences for a wide range of clients within this setting before being placed in community programs (e.g. hospitals, schools, private practices). The department clinic is in need of modernizing and expanding billing capabilities, establishing electronic records, and updating audio-visual recording equipment to provide the most efficient and current practices to prepare students for settings outside the department clinic. This part of the strategic plan identifies steps needed to proceed in these three areas.

3. Evaluate and update our admissions process

The SHS department wants to attract, retain, and support the success of all students. To continue building a diverse, equitable, accessible, and inclusive graduate community, we plan to examine our admissions practices with the end result of altering admissions as needed to for our program in producing competent speech-language pathologists to meet the needs of our diverse society.

For complete strategic plan including associated goals, please contact the department chair.