

# **Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology**

## **Strategic Plan**

**2017-2021**

### ***Executive Summary***

#### **Vision Statement**

The master's degree program in speech-language pathology at Southern University and A&M College will be a well-organized, highly structured program in which its faculty takes corporate responsibility for the curriculum through regular formative assessments and program evaluation. The Speech, Language, and Hearing Clinic will be a major community resource for providing both clinical and elective services to clientele across the lifespan. The highly qualified graduates of the program will routinely integrate clinical practice and research and will demonstrate cultural competence in services to clients across the lifespan in various clinical settings.

#### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Master of Science Degree Program in Speech-Language Pathology is to prepare students from diverse backgrounds who qualify to become licensed, nationally certified speech-language pathologists (SLPs) who can:

1. Provide ethical, evidence-based clinical services, independently, to individuals with communication differences and disorders across the lifespan, and from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds;
2. Work independently and collaboratively with other professionals in various employment settings, including schools and other educational institutions, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, community clinics, and private practice; and
3. Educate the public and advocate for individuals with communication differences and disorders, as well as their families, and assist them in acquiring the resources needed to enhance the quality of their lives.

In achieving the Vision and Mission, the following four key focus areas, along with relevant Outcomes, Indicators of Success, and Strategies, have been identified:

- **Focus Area 1: Curriculum – *Issue*:** Adopting a common course syllabus format for all professional courses in the curriculum will facilitate achievement of the mission of the program and student acquisition of the ASHA Certification Standards across the nine disorder areas and the ASHA Scope of Practice.

- **Focus Area 2: Clinical Education – Issue:** The inclusion of evidence-based practices in the treatment plans developed by student clinicians in each of the nine major disorders will enhance students' ability to provide effective clinical services as independent, competent professionals.
- **Focus Area 3: Tracking Formative Assessment of ASHA Certification Standards – Issue:** Developing and implementing systematic, computer-based procedures for tracking ASHA Certification Standards of knowledge and skills throughout the program will enable students to manage their progress towards this end.
- **Focus Area 4: Departmental Comprehensive Examination: Issue:** A redesign of the departmental comprehensive examination to include (a) an Evidence-Based Clinical Report and (b) the National Praxis Examination in Speech-Language Pathology will assure stakeholders that graduates of the program meet ASHA Certification Standards and satisfy the program's emphasis on accountability through Evidence-Based Clinical Practice.