

## Doctor of Audiology

**Mission:** To empower aspiring audiologists to achieve the highest quality of education through an accelerated program that emphasizes academic excellence, student-centered learning, inclusion, humanistic patient care, a strong commitment to community service, and innovation in audiological research. We aim to graduate highly skilled, forward-thinking professionals who advance the field of audiology and provide exceptional care to individuals with hearing and balance disorders.

**Vision:** To elevate the program in education, research, and community engagement. In the short term, our two-year plan emphasizes updating our curriculum with a focus on holistic healthcare education, expanding research, and enhancing community services.

**Strategic Plan:** We will continue to align and refine our curriculum with evolving standards, attract expert faculty, and strengthen clinical and community partnerships. Our plan will be implemented with two- and five-year benchmarks.

### Key Considerations for Successful Implementation

- Ensure all initiatives align with University, School of Health Sciences, Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) and ACAE standards, as well as institutional, AAA and ASHA strategic goals.
- Develop a responsible funding strategy including grants, partnerships, donor, and alumni networks.

### Two-Year Plan

Our two-year plan focuses on preparing to implement person-centered care, professionalism, ethics, and cultural competency into curricula, alongside establishing new external clinical internship sites. Each objective aligns with specific accreditation standards and Audiology Knowledge and Skills criteria, ensuring a comprehensive approach to the department's academic and clinical progress.

### Goal 1: Enhance Educational Integrity

- Objective 1.1: Expand faculty training in holistic healthcare education (CAA Standard 2.0, 3.0A, 3.1A; Aud-Knowledge-and-Skills 3.1.2A, 3.1.6A).
  - Metric: Each faculty member will enroll in two holistic healthcare training events.
  - Person(s) Responsible: Chair/PD
- Objective 1.2: Research best practices for holistic healthcare education, projects, assignments and activities. (CAA Standard 3.0A, 3.1A; Aud-Knowledge-and-Skills 3.1.2A, 3.1.6A).
  - Metric: Determine 10-12 person-centered care, ethics, and cultural competency activities that could be integrated into specific Y1 and Y2 classes and determine measurements to capture student skills and competency.
  - Person(s) Responsible: Chair/PD and Vice-Chair
- Objective 1.3: Improved first pass rate for PRAXIS exams (CAA Standard 3.0A; Aud-Knowledge-and-Skills 3.1.6A).

- Metric: Increase first pass rate for PRAXIS exams by 10%.
- Person(s) Responsible: Vice-Chair and Chair of ACAC

### **Goal 2: Advance Research and Scholarship**

- Objective 2.1: Increase faculty and student research output.
  - Metric: Submit 4 peer-reviewed papers and present at 2 conferences.
  - Person(s) Responsible: Faculty members
- Objective 2.2: Increase faculty grant applications.
  - Metric: One new external grant application.
  - Person(s) Responsible: Faculty members

### **Goal 3: Strengthen Community Engagement and Clinical Services**

- Objective 4.1: Expand community outreach programs.
  - Metric: Launch 2 new community hearing health initiatives.
  - Person(s) Responsible: Clinic Directors and Chair/PD
- Objective 4.2: Research and select methods to obtain patient satisfaction metrics in university clinics.
  - Metric: Implement 2 methods of obtaining patient satisfactions metrics.
  - Person(s) Responsible: Clinic Directors

### **Five-year Plan**

Over the next five years, we will strengthen our commitment to advancing audiology education, research, and community engagement. First, we aim to revise and update our audiology curriculum to align with CAA standards emphasizing holistic healthcare. Concurrently, we will expand our research initiatives by attracting expert faculty and forging research partnerships, focusing on impactful contributions and leadership in audiology. Finally, we will strengthen clinical partnerships and involve our alumni in student placements and community outreach programs in hearing health.

#### **1. Curriculum Enhancement and Accreditation Alignment**

- Years 1-2: Revise the curriculum to align with CAA standards and ASHA's focus areas, emphasizing person-centered care, communication and cultural competence.
- Years 1-3: Implement recruitment and retainment strategies to enroll 24 students per year with a graduation rate of >80%
- Years 3-5: Implement continuous curriculum evaluation and improvement processes to stay aligned with evidence-based advancements and accreditation changes.

#### **2. Research Expansion in Key Areas**

- Years 1-3: Attract and retain faculty with expertise in innovative audiology practices and research, offering competitive salaries and development opportunities.
- Years 3-5: Seek collaborations with national and international research institutions, aiming for impactful contributions to the field.

- Years 3-5: Aim to publish and present impactful research findings at national and international forums, increasing the program's visibility.
- Ongoing: Encourage faculty leadership in national audiology associations and communities, continuously integrate advanced technologies in teaching, research, and clinical practice.

### **3. Strengthen Clinical Partnerships and Community Engagement**

- Years 1-3: Develop more robust clinical partnerships for student externships, including alumni supervisors, aligning with CAA standards for clinical education.
- Years 4-5: Establish community outreach programs in collaboration with alumni, focusing on hearing health awareness, prevention, and rehabilitation.
- Ongoing: Develop community outreach programs that emphasize hearing health, prevention, and treatment, resonating with the School of Health Sciences' commitment to community service.

Looking ahead to the ten-year mark, our long-term goal is to increase our rank among national Audiology programs, address hearing health disparities through community health initiatives, and establish significant international collaborations and exchanges, culminating in hosting a major audiology conference. This strategic approach reflects our commitment to excellence and leadership in audiology education.