

**Queens College Graduate Program in Speech Language Pathology
Long Term Strategic Plan 2026-2029
Executive Summary 2025-2026**

Long Term Strategic Goals, 2025-2026

1. Program fulfillment of the required accreditation standards of the American Speech Language Hearing Association Council of Academic Accreditation (ASHA/CAA).
2. Encourage innovations in teaching coursework, clinical education, and experiential learning opportunities to expand the breadth of graduate student knowledge, clinical application skills, and research consistent with ethical, evidenced based scope of practice in the field of speech language pathology.
3. Commitment to serve the college and community through enhanced interprofessional and community outreach programs within Queens College, the larger CUNY educational system, and the surrounding community.
4. Incorporate expanded use and training of academically and clinically focused technologies in the program to maintain levels of currency and adaptability in our ever-changing profession.
5. Development of an Alumni Mentorship Network for both graduate and undergraduate programs to enhance student experiences and observation opportunities across a variety of expertise and placements.

Annual Subgoals and Outcomes for Program's Long Term Strategic Plan

Sub-Goal for LTP Goal #1

Complete the annual review of the academic and clinical curriculum to ensure the program is fulfilling its obligation to the CAA accreditation standards and students have met the requirements for NYS licensure in SLP, NYS Certification Initial TSSLD, and ASHA certification in SLP.

Outcome:

Following the annual curriculum review, revisions were implemented across several courses to strengthen the integration of person-centered and family-/caregiver-centered approaches to clinical practice. In particular, LCD 729 was enhanced to include expanded instruction on parent and caregiver coaching, collaborative goal development that actively involves clients and their families/caregivers, and the use of strength-based language when discussing clients' abilities and progress. These curricular enhancements reinforce the program's ongoing commitment to holistic, individualized, and culturally responsive care and preparing students to engage in collaborative, clinical practice that values the perspectives, priorities, and strengths of each client and their support system.

Sub-Goal for LTP Goal #2

With the addition of a new full-time faculty member who has an expertise in augmentative and alternate communication, the program will re-design our approach to client services and student training in AAC.

Outcome:

Our newest faculty member is currently teaching LCD 723, Augmentative and Alternative Communication. The course has been enhanced to provide students with expanded experiential learning opportunities, including direct interactions with individuals who use AAC, engagement with practicing speech-language pathologists specializing in AAC services across the lifespan, and hands-on experience with a variety of AAC devices and software applications. In addition, upon successful completion of the course and required certification components, all students earned certification in the use of the Lingraphica communication system. These enhanced learning experiences have significantly strengthened students' clinical preparedness, enabling them to apply newly acquired AAC knowledge and skills directly within their field placements.

Additionally, a recently awarded grant supported the purchase of eight iPads and dedicated AAC applications for use within the Speech-Language-Hearing Center (SLHC). Beginning this fall, these resources will be integrated into clinical services, expanding communication options for clients while

providing students with increased opportunities to develop competency in AAC assessment, intervention, and clinical decision-making using current technologies.

Sub-Goal for LTP Goal #3

The SLP program will connect with disciplines across the Queens College campus to increase awareness of clinical services and establish new opportunities for clients and student training

Outcome:

The Aphasia Conversation Group at the Speech-Language-Hearing Center (SLHC) meets weekly and is grounded in the Life Participation Approach to Aphasia (LPAA), which emphasizes meaningful life participation, social engagement, and individual choice as central components of intervention. Consistent with this philosophy, the group's lead faculty member collaborated with the on-campus Paul Klapper Art Museum to develop a community-based experience that included a guided museum visit, discussion of the featured exhibition, and participation in a hands-on art-making activity. The Art Department embraced the collaboration. Prior to the museum visit, the museum curator attended an Aphasia Conversation Group session at the SLHC to become acquainted with participants and learn effective communication strategies to support meaningful interactions with individuals with aphasia. Following additional preparation by faculty and students, members of the Aphasia Conversation Group and their caregivers visited the museum together.

During the visit, participants engaged in discussions with the curator, examined and handled selected works of art, and created their own artistic pieces. The experience provided a meaningful opportunity for individuals with aphasia to actively participate in a community cultural event while applying communication strategies in an authentic setting. Student clinicians also benefited by observing and supporting their clients in a real-world environment, allowing them to adapt communication cues and prompts to facilitate successful participation. Additionally, the collaboration increased the museum staff's awareness of aphasia, the services provided by the SLHC, and effective strategies for creating more accessible and inclusive community experiences.

Sub-Goal for LTP Goal #4

Collaborate with the IT Department to explore the adoption of Calipso for student and accreditation documentation and the addition of an electronic medical records system for the Speech Language Hearing Center.

Outcome:

The program director is gathering the required documentation from the vendors and the legal department at CUNY to confirm viability to operate Calipso and an EMR system in our on-campus clinic. When finalized, a meeting will be scheduled with IT to review the campus capabilities and requirements for setup and maintenance of each platform to determine if both/either can be approved for usage by the program.

Sub-Goal for LTP Goal #5

A subcommittee will be created in the 2026-2027 academic year to review the current alumni contact list for accuracy, explore the usage the current Alumni Facebook Group, and explore options to enhance increased participation and student mentorship from our graduate alumni.