

THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY
JEFFERSON COLLEGE OF REHABILITATION SCIENCES
GRADUATE PROGRAM IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
STRATEGIC PLAN
2025–2030

The Graduate Program in Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) at Thomas Jefferson University is committed to excellence in education, clinical practice, research, and community service. This five-year strategic plan (2025–2030) outlines the program’s priorities for advancing academic quality, clinical innovation, inclusion, and interprofessional collaboration within the broader mission of the Jefferson College of Rehabilitation Sciences (JCRS) and Thomas Jefferson University.

Mission and Vision

The program’s mission is to provide the academic and clinical preparation necessary for graduates to excel as independent clinicians and collaborative members of interprofessional teams while upholding the highest ethical standards. Through innovative, inclusive, and person-centered education and practice, the program seeks to optimize communication, participation, and quality of life for individuals and families in their communities.

Its vision is to be recognized regionally and nationally for leadership in interprofessional education, clinical innovation, and inclusive excellence in rehabilitation sciences. The program will distinguish itself through its immersive clinical training model, strong community partnerships, and commitment to communication as a fundamental human right.

Core Values

- Excellence and integrity in all educational and clinical endeavors.
- Collaboration and interprofessional practice across health and education disciplines.
- Inclusion and cultural responsiveness to promote equitable and culturally relevant care.
- Innovation and evidence-based practice through research and scholarly inquiry.
- Compassion in the setting of person and family-centered care that honors the dignity and uniqueness of every individual.
- Community and service to extend impact beyond the University.
- Lifelong learning and professional growth as hallmarks of leadership and continuous improvement.

Strategic Priorities (2025–2030)

Goal 1: Program Development and Innovation

Develop a dynamic, high-quality master’s program that leverages the distinctive strengths of the Thomas Jefferson Enterprise. Priorities include expanding immersive clinical

education, interprofessional learning, and community engagement—locally and globally. The program will strengthen partnerships, offer international learning opportunities, and enhance research experiences for graduate students.

Goal 2: Student Recruitment and Success

Recruit and support a highly qualified, diverse student body dedicated to service and professional excellence. Strategies include holistic admissions, targeted marketing, and pipeline programs such as the JCRS Readiness, Exploration and Application for Careers in Health (REACH) and Summer Training and Enrichment Program (STEP-UP). The SLP graduate program will also implement a 4+2 dual-degree pathway to attract undergraduate students into the field and the program

Goal 3: Accreditation and Infrastructure

Obtain and maintain full accreditation from the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA). This will involve hiring additional faculty, expanding classroom and laboratory spaces, and building robust systems to sustain compliance with all CAA and Council for Clinical Certification (CFCC) standards.

Goal 4: Continuous Program Improvement

Embed a culture of reflection and continuous improvement through data-driven evaluation, curricular innovation, and faculty development. The program will analyze student outcomes, Praxis pass rates, course evaluations, and advisory board input to strengthen teaching, learning, and clinical preparation.

Goal 5: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice

Advance equity and access in communication sciences and disorders by recruiting diverse students and faculty, embedding principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout the curriculum, and engaging in community-based learning. The program will provide students with experiences that foster cultural humility, address social determinants of health, and promote social justice through advocacy and service.

Implementation and Evaluation

Progress toward each goal will be reviewed annually at departmental retreats and aligned with updates to University and College strategic plans. Success will be measured through defined outcome indicators, including student and faculty diversity, program growth, accreditation milestones, Praxis pass rates, community partnerships, and student feedback.

Conclusion

The 2025–2030 Strategic Plan positions the Graduate Program in Speech-Language Pathology at Thomas Jefferson University to advance its national reputation as a leader in interprofessional education and clinical innovation. Through collaboration, compassion, and commitment to excellence, the program will continue to prepare graduates to transform

lives through communication and embody Jefferson's values of putting people first and doing what is right.