



FIRST IN WHOLE PERSON HEALTHCARE

**Department of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology  
Doctor of Audiology Program Strategic Plan  
2021-2026 (Revised)  
Executive Summary**

**Executive Summary**

The Doctor of Audiology Program began enrolling students at A.T. Still University-Arizona School of Health Sciences (ATSU-ASHS) in 2002 and graduated its first cohort of two students in 2006. The program has grown over the years and is currently enrolling sixteen new students per year. The Doctor of Audiology Program seeks to provide outstanding, high quality audiology education while attracting and retaining top tier students. The program's mission, goals, and student learning outcomes are consistent with recognized national standards for entry into professional practice and with the mission and vision of the institution.

Throughout 2020-2021, the audiology faculty reviewed and revised the Doctor of Audiology Program Strategic Plan. The Plan establishes long-term strategic initiatives and implementation strategies. The focus areas have been established by the audiology faculty to help the program excel at meeting the program goals, while aligning strategic efforts with the needs of students, faculty, and the academic and geographical community. The foundational information provided below is reviewed by the faculty during planning and revision processes to honor the guiding principles established by the university and the program. The faculty also consider the alignment of the program's strategic plan with the ATSU Strategic Plan and the ASHS Strategic Plan.

The long-term Doctor of Audiology Program Strategic Plan incorporates four focus areas: A) Didactic and Clinical Education, B) Students, C) Faculty and Staff and D) the AFA Balance & Hearing Institute--Clinical Care and Community Health. Multiple strategic initiatives are delineated in the plan for each focus area. The plan is used as a dynamic document. Strategies with action plans, indicators for success with target dates, responsible parties, and budget considerations are set forth by the faculty. The faculty assess progress on the plan and adjusts the plan on an ongoing basis during Audiology Program meetings to respond to internal and external changes and opportunities.

Primary strategies that address the plan's focus areas include the following:

- Conduct ongoing review of the curriculum and implement revisions, as appropriate,
- Enhance documentation of and implementation of standardized operational procedures and policies for clinical education,
- Analyze the impact of class size on admissions processes, budget, workload, clinical placements, space needs, lab supervision and program quality,
- Enhance interactions, training and communication with clinical preceptors
- Enhance opportunities for faculty development and scholarship,
- Increase productivity and clinical teaching opportunities at the AFA Balance & Hearing Institute by adding one audiologist,
- Maintain and increase volunteer and clinical rotation service to diverse and underserved populations

The full Doctor of Audiology Program Strategic Plan contains additional strategies and detailed actions plans.

## **Foundational Platform**

### **A.T. Still University (ATSU) Mission, Vision, Core Values, and Core Professional Attributes (ATSU Strategic Plan 2021-2028)**

#### **ATSU Mission**

A.T. Still University of Health Sciences serves as a learning-centered university dedicated to preparing highly competent professionals through innovative academic programs with a commitment to continue its osteopathic heritage and focus on whole person healthcare, scholarship, community health, interprofessional education, diversity, and underserved populations.

#### **ATSU Vision**

To be the preeminent University for health professions

- Leading innovator in health professions education
- Superior students and graduates who exemplify and support the University's mission
- Osteopathic philosophy demonstrated and integrated
- Pioneering contributions to healthcare education, knowledge, and practice

#### **ATSU Core Institutional Values**

- Innovation
- Whole person healthcare
- Scholarship
- Leadership in community health
- Diversity

#### **ATSU Core Professional Attributes**

- Critical thinking
- Cultural proficiency
- Interpersonal skills
- Interprofessional collaboration
- Social responsibility

### **ATSU Strategic Plan 2021-2028 Themes**

- Innovative education
- Mission-focused scholarship
- Engaged, diverse University community
- Beneficial partnerships
- Agile resource management

### **Arizona School of Health Sciences (ASHS) Vision, Mission and Purpose (ASHS Strategic Plan 2020-2025)**

#### **Vision**

To be the leading educator in health professions and rehabilitation sciences providing the full spectrum of education built on innovation, interprofessional collaboration, and evidence-based practice models.

#### **Mission**

To graduate health professionals highly skilled in evidence based practice who are committed to reducing health disparities for individuals and communities.

#### **Purpose**

Deliver rigorous and innovative educational programming and advance faculty research and scholarship within the health professions; contributing to scientific knowledge in audiology, athletic training, occupational therapy, physical therapy, physician assistant studies, speech-language pathology and beyond.

- Promote community engagement through innovative service projects and community partnerships with an interprofessional commitment to underserved populations.
- Provide programs that span the full spectrum of entry level and post professional education, exemplifying the school's commitment to life-long learning in the health professions.

### **ASHS Strategic Plan 2020-2025 Initiatives**

- Program growth and innovation
- Marketing and branding
- Faculty development
- Clinical partnerships
- Advancement (fundraising) and commitment to diversifying revenue
- Diversity, equity and inclusion

## Doctor of Audiology Program Mission Statement and Goals

### Mission Statement:

The Arizona School of Health Sciences (ASHS) Doctor of Audiology Program provides excellent clinical doctoral level education. The Program is committed to delivering a robust post-baccalaureate program to graduate compassionate professionals prepared to provide the standard of care across the audiology scope of practice.

The Doctor of Audiology Program mission directly reflects the mission of A. T. Still University of Health Sciences. The Doctor of Audiology Program supports the osteopathic philosophy of wholeness, the unity of body parts, and the treatment of body, mind and spirit. Inherent in this mission is the commitment to preparing professionals who can use critical inquiry, advances in technology, and interdisciplinary teamwork to provide high quality healthcare in diverse practice settings.

The academic and clinical experiences of the Doctor of Audiology Program are designed to provide attainment of a defined set of competencies related to the prevention, identification, assessment and treatment of hearing and balance disorders. The program is committed to integrating the use of technology in facilitating instructional processes and clinical experiences. The program also fosters intradisciplinary and interdisciplinary cooperation and collaboration embodied in the daily educational and clinical activities of students.

### Program Goals:

The program has developed 5 program goals that relate directly to its mission of “preparing professionals who can use critical inquiry, advances in technology, and interdisciplinary teamwork to provide high quality healthcare in diverse practice settings.” The goals are listed in the chart below:

Goal 1: Students will be able to provide clinical services competently across the scope of practice of audiology, in a variety of settings, and among diverse patient populations.
Goal 2: Students will be able to provide audiologic services in an ethical, legal, and professional manner.
Goal 3: Students will gain an appreciation of service responsibilities, leadership skills, and lifelong learning.
Goal 4: Students will have the opportunity to be eligible for the ASHA CFCC Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology (CCC-A).
Goal 5: Students will be eligible to meet doctoral level credentialing requirements for the profession of audiology.

### Assessing Achievement of Program Goals

The Chair of the Department of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, the Doctor of Audiology Program Director and the Audiology faculty evaluate the achievement of the program's mission and educational goals on a continuing basis and in multiple ways. These include:

- Student ratings of teaching conducted for the courses taught each session
- Student evaluations of clinical sites and preceptors for the sites utilized each semester
- Annual student surveys for assessment of the performance of clinical coordinators
- Annual surveys of preceptors for assessment of the performance of clinical coordinators and the effectiveness of the program
- Annual surveys/focus groups conducted by Admissions staff with 1st year students
- Discussions between students and faculty in Grand Rounds meetings
- Curricular reviews during Curriculum Committee meetings
- Analysis of clinical proficiency evaluations (completed by the preceptors for students during all clinical rotations)
- Analysis of clinical instruction and placement, including clock hour analysis
- Analysis of student performance on formative and summative assessments in academic and clinical courses
- Student competencies on written and practical comprehensive examinations
- Analysis of Knowledge and Skills Acquisition (KASA) Summary Form for 2020 Council on Academic Accreditation standards and 2020 (Rev. 2022) CFCC Standards in Audiology
- Data gathered during exit interviews prior to graduation
- Review of graduate audits completed for each graduate by the program director and chairperson
- Student performance on the national Praxis series examination in audiology
- Comprehensive program reviews during semiannual faculty meetings and regular faculty meetings
- Departmental review of annual report data provided to administration
- Results of alumni surveys
- Results of employer surveys