

MS-SLP Strategic Plan (July 2023-July 2028)

Executive Summary

To meet the current and future clinical speech and communication disorder needs of western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio, Thiel College will continue to offer a Master in Science in speech-language pathology program that is in the application for full accreditation from the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. By training qualified undergraduate and graduate students, the College will develop professionals who can provide excellent services to clients grounded in high ethical standards, evidenced-based decision-making, and compassion.

Mission

The mission of the Thiel College Master of Science in speech-language pathology program is to graduate speech-language professionals who have the disciplinary knowledge and skills, clinical preparation and dispositions to provide entry-level services to diverse clientele and to meet the needs of their community.

Congruence of Strategic Plan with Mission of Thiel College

The strategic plan of the Thiel College Master of Science in speech-language pathology is reviewed annually by the program to ensure its continued alignment with the mission of Thiel College to empower individuals to reach their full potential by creating a diverse and inclusive learning environment that ensures educational excellence, stimulates global awareness, and promotes ethical leadership. In doing so, Thiel prepares students for careers and lives of meaning and purpose.

Thiel College Strategic Goals	MS-SLP Strategic Goals	MS-SLP Strategies	MS-SLP July 2023	MS-SLP July 2024	MS-SLP July 2025	MS-SLP July 2026	MS-SLP July 2027
Goal I: Innovation & Leadership Drive innovation, creativity and leadership development	1. Expand opportunities for students and faculty to initiate innovation and develop as creative leaders on campus and in their lives.	1. Work with other departments/programs on-campus to develop interprofessional programming. 2. Encourage students to attend state and national professional	IPE/IPP/DEI session completed in March 2023. Students attended 2022 ASHA	IPE/IPP/DEI session completed September 2023 and July 2024. Students attended 2023 ASHA			

to gain a competitive edge.		conferences with faculty mentors.	Convention, 2023 PSHA Convention, and Thiel College MS-SLP 2 nd Annual Professional Development Day.	Convention, 2024 PSHA Convention, and Thiel College 3 rd Annual Professional Development Day.			
	2. Provide continued professional development opportunities for students, faculty, alumni, and community professionals.	<p>1. Create repository of resources for alumni and externship supervisors.</p> <p>2. Provide multiple annual ASHA CEU opportunities to alumni and externship supervisors.</p> <p>3. Create alumni social media pages to keep alumni up-to-date with best practices and professional development opportunities.</p>	<p>Thiel College SLP Learning Network created July 2023.</p> <p>Hosted online DEI event in March 2023.</p> <p>Hosted 2nd Annual Professional Development Day in July 2023.</p>	<p>Thiel College SLP Learning Network updated.</p> <p>NSSLHA participated in multiple DEI events.</p> <p>Will host 3rd Annual Professional Development Day on August 1, 2024.</p>			
Goal 2: Dynamic & Bold	1. Attract high-quality, motivated graduate students from diverse backgrounds who are	1. Gain full program accreditation.	Full program accreditation awarded in August 2023.	Full program accreditation awarded in August 2023.			

<p>Establish a dynamic and bold Thiel, fostering leadership in a richly diverse, inclusive and equitable environment.</p>	<p>enthusiastically engaged in curricular and co-curricular learning opportunities.</p>	<p>2. Develop undergraduate tracks to increase number of 5-Year students.</p> <p>3. Promote Post-Bac to MS-SLP Program.</p> <p>4. Utilize CSDCAS resources to recruit graduate students.</p>	<p>Undergraduate minors being developed.</p> <p>Post-bac flyer completed and articulation agreement in process with Grove City College.</p>	<p>Marketing for 5-Year, MS-SLP Program, and Post-bac program continues. Virtual information sessions and open house provided.</p>			
	<p>2. Create a learning and clinical environment that is rich in diversity, equitable, inclusive, respectful and intentional in bridging differences.</p>	<p>1. Provide program faculty with specific DEI training.</p> <p>2. Provide DEI training for students.</p> <p>3. Incorporate DEI reflection in grand rounds presentations for externships.</p>	<p>Hosted online DEI event in March 2023.</p> <p>DEI reflection included in grand rounds presentations in July 2023.</p>	<p>NSSLHA participated in multiple DEI events.</p> <p>DEI covered in CSD 550.</p> <p>DEI reflection included in grand rounds presentations.</p>			
	<p>3. Offer innovative opportunities that advance the Program's mission and prepare students to practice at the top of their license throughout their professional careers.</p>	<p>1. Create repository of resources for current students, alumni, and externship supervisors.</p>	<p>Thiel College SLP Learning Network created July 2023.</p> <p>DEI event and 2nd Annual</p>	<p>Thiel College SLP Learning Network updated.</p> <p>3rd Annual Professional</p>			

		2. Provide multiple ASHA CEU opportunities to current students, alumni, and externship supervisors.	Professional Development Day.	Development Day			
Goal 3: Reach & Impact Expand Thiel's reach and impact, contributing to Greenville's and the broader region's social, economic and educational development.	1. Develop new affiliation agreements for expanded clinical opportunities.	1. Develop externship coordinator positions for educational settings and healthcare settings. 2. Develop handbook specifically for externship supervisors.	Dr. Billak served as coordinator for educational externships and Professor Kobak served as coordinator for healthcare externships for 2023-2024 AY.	Professor Cassandra Shearer started in May 2024 as Externship Coordinator and Lecturer.			
	2. Provide lifelong learning opportunities for Program's alumni and externship supervisors	1. Create repository of resources for current students, alumni, and externship supervisors. 2. Provide multiple ASHA CEU opportunities to current students, alumni, and	Thiel College SLP Learning Network created July 2023. DEI event and 2 nd Annual Professional Development Day.	Thiel College SLP Learning Network updated. 3 rd Annual Professional Development Day. Quarterly newsletter			

		externship supervisors.		with updates and information published.			
Goal 4: Resources & Investment	1. Attract, develop, and retain innovative and diverse faculty and clinical educators to represent expertise across the SLP scope of practice, lifespan, and with diverse populations.	1. Provide program faculty with specific DEI training.	DEI training provided in March 2023.	DEI trainings via MedBridge available to all faculty.			
Strengthen the College's resources, making investments to secure the future.	2. Continue to expand technology and instrumentation to provide students with high-quality and contemporary clinical education experience.	2. Pursue grant funding for future capital purchases.	Faculty pursued grant funding as appropriate for Thiel College Adult Neurological Network and Concussion Management. Clinical education tools updated and inventory expanded.	Grant funding secured for SPEAK OUT training for clinical educators and graduate students. Clinical education tools updated and inventory expanded.			