

D'Youville University

Speech-Language Pathology Program

Strategic Plan Executive Summary (2026–2029)

Introduction

The D'Youville University Speech-Language Pathology Program has transitioned from program development to program growth and continuous quality improvement. Since implementation of the original strategic plan, the program achieved CAA Candidacy Status, enrolled multiple student cohorts, expanded clinical partnerships, implemented simulation-enhanced and interprofessional learning experiences, and graduated its inaugural class. These accomplishments informed development of this strategic plan.

Mission

The D'Youville University Speech-Language Pathology Program prepares future speech-language pathologists to provide evidence-based, inclusive services to persons with communication and swallowing disorders across the lifespan. Through academic excellence, clinical innovation, community engagement, and interprofessional collaboration, the program develops service-oriented leaders committed to improving the health and well-being of diverse populations.

Vision

The D'Youville University Speech-Language Pathology Program will be recognized as a leader in innovative graduate education, preparing compassionate, evidence-based clinicians who advance communication, swallowing, and quality of life through interprofessional collaboration, service, leadership, and lifelong learning.

Envisioned Future

By 2030, the program will achieve and maintain full accreditation, demonstrate strong student and employer outcomes, expand strategic partnerships, and be recognized for excellence in graduate education, simulation-enhanced learning, interprofessional education, and community engagement.

Strategic Goals

- **Goal 1: Accreditation and Continuous Quality Improvement:** Maintain accreditation standards and use assessment data to support continuous improvement. Key indicators include accreditation compliance, student learning outcomes, graduate outcomes, stakeholder feedback, and implementation of improvement initiatives.
- **Goal 2: Student Success and Professional Development:** Promote student achievement, engagement, leadership development, and career readiness. Key indicators include retention, graduation, employment outcomes, student satisfaction, and participation in leadership and service opportunities.
- **Goal 3: Academic and Clinical Excellence:** Deliver innovative, evidence-based academic and clinical education. Key indicators include competency achievement, clinical educator feedback, interprofessional education experiences, and simulation integration across the curriculum.
- **Goal 4: Community Engagement and Workforce Development:** Strengthen partnerships that address workforce needs and improve access to services. Key indicators include community partnerships, outreach activities, stakeholder feedback, and student participation in service learning.
- **Goal 5: Enrollment Growth and Program Development:** Sustain enrollment and develop future educational pathways. Key indicators include applications, enrollment trends, retention, recruitment outcomes, and development of new educational opportunities.
- **Goal 6: Faculty Excellence and Innovation:** Support faculty success in teaching, scholarship, leadership, and service. Key indicators include scholarly activity, professional development, leadership contributions, and innovative educational practices.

Commitment to Continuous Improvement

The program is committed to ongoing assessment, stakeholder engagement, and evidence-based decision-making. Progress toward strategic goals will be reviewed annually by program faculty and the Program Advisory Board. Early program outcomes demonstrate successful student progression, timely degree completion, and strong employment outcomes among graduates, providing a foundation for ongoing assessment and continuous improvement. Assessment findings will inform future planning, resource allocation, and program enhancement.

Strategic Plan Period: 2026–2029

Review Cycle: Annual

Alignment: D'Youville University Mission, School of Health Professions Strategic Priorities, and CAA Accreditation Standards.