

# **A.T. Still University Audiology Department Entry Level Doctor of Audiology Program Strategic Plan For 2016-2021**

## **Executive Summary**

The Entry Level Doctor of Audiology Program began enrolling students at A.T. Still University in 2002 and graduated its first cohort of two students in 2006. The program has grown over the years and is currently enrolling fourteen new students per year. The Entry Level 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.

The Entry Level Doctor of Audiology Program Strategic 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 long-term Strategic Plan incorporates four focus areas: 1) Didactic and Clinical Education, 2) Students, 3) Faculty and 4) 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, responsible parties, target dates and budget considerations are set forth by the faculty. The faculty assess progress on the plan using a target date tracking sheet. Adjustments and enhancements are made to the plan on an ongoing basis during departmental retreats to respond to internal and external changes and opportunities.

Primary strategies that address the plan's focus areas for the current 2016-2021 include the following:

- Implement curriculum revisions to align the program with the university semester calendar,

- Review the impact of the curriculum revisions from the perspective of the students and faculty,
- Enhance documentation of and implementation of standardized operational procedures and policies for clinical education,
- Consider potential class size increases with respect to the impact on admissions processes, budget, workload, space needs and program quality,
- Address the faculty needs for the program in relation to succession planning for retiring faculty,
- Expand professional development funding and faculty release time for scholarship,
- Increase the capacity of the AFA Balance & Hearing institute by adding one audiologist,
- Establish a graduate assistantship/business traineeship for one incoming student to work at the AFA Balance & Hearing Institute for 2 ½ years.

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

### **Foundational Platform**

#### **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 (i.e., whole person healthcare)
- 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
- Interprofessional collaboration
- Interpersonal skills
- Social responsibility

### **Entry Level Doctor of Audiology Program Purpose Statement and Goals**

#### **Purpose Statement:**

The purpose of the Arizona School of Health Sciences (ASHS) Entry Level Doctor of Audiology Program is to provide excellent and appropriate education for audiologists at the clinical doctoral level. The program is committed to providing a robust post-baccalaureate, residential program to educate entry-level audiology professionals.

The Entry Level Doctor of Audiology Program mission directly reflects the mission of A. T. Still University of Health Sciences. The Entry Level 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 Entry Level 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: The program fosters in its students an appreciation of service responsibilities, leadership skills, and lifelong learning.
Goal 4: Students will have the opportunity to be eligible for 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 Department of Audiology faculty and chair 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 session
- 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 regular meetings of the Curriculum Committee
- 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 2017 Council on Academic Accreditation standards and 2012 CFCC Standards in Audiology
- Data gathered during exit interviews prior to graduation
- Review of graduate audits completed for each graduate by the chairperson
- Student performance on the national Praxis series examination in audiology
- Comprehensive program reviews during semi-annual faculty retreats and regular faculty meetings
- Departmental review of annual report data provided to administration
- Results of alumni surveys
- Results of employer surveys