



Speech-Language Pathology

Master of Speech-Language Pathology Strategic Plan Report of Progress AY 2025-2026

MSLP Mission

The mission of the Austin Peay State University Master of Speech-Language Pathology (MSLP) program is to lead in improving the lives of persons with communication disorders residing in Tennessee and surrounding regions by preparing professionals who are highly competent in the provision of evidence-based clinical services, and who deliver these services while upholding the highest standards of ethics, integrity, and compassionate care. The program promotes excellence through a culture of collegiality, supports individual distinctiveness and critical thinking, and engages meaningfully with the community.

Executive Summary of Progress

The 2025–2026 academic year was a transformative year for the Austin Peay State University (APSU) Master of Speech-Language Pathology (MSLP) Program. Significant progress was made across all strategic priorities through faculty leadership, innovation in clinical education, strong community partnerships, and exceptional student outcomes.

Three major accomplishments highlight the year's success. First, the program achieved a historic milestone when it was awarded accreditation by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, effective February 1, 2026. Accreditation affirms the quality of the program, the strength of its curriculum and clinical education model, and its alignment with national standards for graduate education in speech-language pathology.

Second, the program successfully relocated into the new Health Professions Building. This move provided dedicated faculty offices and a modern clinical training environment, including the APSU Speech-Language & Swallowing Community Clinic. The clinic now operates within a state-of-the-art facility and continues to provide no-cost speech, language, cognitive-communication, and swallowing services to community members while serving as a primary clinical training site for MSLP students.

Third, faculty continued to expand the program's impact through strategic recruitment efforts, development of medically based clinical education opportunities, and implementation of innovative teaching practices. Particular emphasis was placed on integrating emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, to enhance student learning and prepare graduates for an evolving healthcare environment.

The program also maintained outstanding student outcomes. Graduates from the first two cohorts achieved a 100% pass rate on the Praxis examination, reflecting the effectiveness of the curriculum, clinical experiences, and faculty mentorship.

Progress during the year also advanced the program's long-term goals of sustainable growth, clinical excellence, and community engagement. Faculty strengthened partnerships with community partners, expanded experiential learning opportunities, and increased the visibility of the program throughout Tennessee and the surrounding region.

Although continued advocacy for additional faculty and administrative support remains important to sustain future growth, the program is well positioned for continued success. The accomplishments of the past year reflect the dedication of faculty, staff, community partners, and university leadership to building a high-quality program that prepares future speech-language pathologists while meeting the communication and swallowing needs of the community.

Prepared by APSU Master of Speech-Language Pathology Faculty Academic Year 2025-2026