Mission and Strategic Plan – Revised 2015

University Mission
Extraordinary Education, Breakthrough Research, Dynamic Public Engagement.

College of Liberal Arts mission
CLA’s mission is to encourage habits of creative and critical thinking, develop analytical skills, and enable undergraduates to study with researchers at the forefront of defining their fields of study.

Program Mission of SLHS
The Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences offers internationally recognized programs in speech-language-hearing sciences, audiology, and speech-language pathology that provide outstanding opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to pursue academic and clinical careers. In all programs, we strive to serve scholars within the University and broader community with interwoven coursework and clinical and research experiences. These enable students to better understand the complexities of human communication across the life span, and to be sensitive to the personal, social, academic, and vocational consequences of difficulties in communication.

Mission of the Ph.D. Program
The Ph.D. program in the Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences is designed to provide students with a strong foundation in research in the discipline. It is the mission of the SLHS doctoral program to provide the highest quality of education for students to develop strong research skills and scholarship that can be applied to the professional setting of their choosing. As such, this program is designed for students seeking advanced knowledge and research skills in speech, language, and hearing in typical and atypical populations. Students who are seeking to become independent scholars in an area of their choice are well suited for this program. This takes place in an environment where faculty members are actively pursuing theoretical questions about the nature of communication sciences and the application of these questions to clinically diverse populations. Although graduates of the program may assume different professional paths upon graduation, many take academic positions in higher education.

Mission of the Professional Programs
The professional degrees (Master’s in Speech-Language Pathology, and Doctor of Audiology) are designed to prepare students primarily for careers in clinical service delivery in audiology and speech-language pathology. Most graduates of the professional programs hold clinical positions in hospitals, community clinics, private practices, schools, universities, and other facilities around the country where they evaluate and treat individuals with speech, language, and hearing disorders. The professional degree programs combine academic coursework and clinical education experiences in the environment of a major research university where faculty are actively engaged in pursuing questions that have clinical relevance and impact.

SLHS will build upon our strengths:

- Our outstanding translational and foundational research productivity
  - Continue our success in grant funding and scholarly productivity.
    - Our success in grant funding enhances our professional and material resources.
  - Connect research to teaching, clinical service, and service to the community
- Our relevance and connection with the greater community, particularly the citizens of Minnesota
  - Grow the demand for our major, our PhD graduates, and our professional degree graduates
  - Continue our success in placing graduates at all levels
  - Continue our influence on evidence-based clinical practice both locally and nationally
- Our commitment to excellence in education and multiculturalism in particular
  - Commit to continual improvement of our educational and clinical offerings
  - Expand our connections to underrepresented groups in Minnesota and beyond our state borders
  - Increase the diversity of our students at all levels
  - Continue to advocate for resources both from College and Central Administration.