## Executive Summary of the Strategic Plan Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology Department of Rehabilitation Sciences & Wellness School of Health Sciences, University of New Haven

Note: Most recent updates by Jacqueline Brown, Julie DoCarmo, & Lucas Northern 10/22/25. Reviewed by Betsy Francis-Connolly, PhD., Dean of the School of Health Sciences.

The Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology at the University of New Haven accepted its first cohort in the fall of 2025. The Program has entered its fourth year of operation and continues to develop a strong academic and clinical foundation. During the 2025-2026 academic year, the program will be focused on moving from candidacy status to accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA).

The next five years will focus on advancing student outcomes, increasing program quality, and enhancing the program's visibility at local and national levels, while working on the final phases of obtaining accreditation. This strategic plan outlines the measurable goals aligned with the Program's vision of preparing competent and ethical speech-language pathologists, and is designed to guide program growth in alignment with CAA accreditation standards.

Over the next five years, the program faculty will focus on increasing the Praxis pass rate by providing review sessions and opportunities for students to take mock exams. To improve pass rates, the faculty will also embed more opportunities for meeting and tracking competencies in every course that focuses on any of the big nine areas. Additionally, clinical opportunities will continue to be built in to allow students to implement evidence-based practices.

Lastly, the faculty will focus on improving program visibility. We aim to increase our social media presence through our National Student Speech Language Hearing Association chapter. We will engage our clinical supervisors and program faculty to identify ways to strengthen collaboration while training future speech-language pathologists.

Through the outlined initiatives, we aim to strengthen the Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology program, increasing its academic rigor, clinical excellence, and professional reputation. The plan ensures that the program remains aligned with national standards, responsive to workforce needs, and positioned for continued growth and innovation in speech-language pathology education.