ACCREDITATION ACTION REPORT
Annual Report Review

The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology has reviewed the program’s accreditation annual report and took the accreditation action indicated below.

Name of Program: Kean University of New Jersey

File #: 226

Professional Area:
- [ ] Audiology
- [x] Speech-Language Pathology

Modality:
- [x] Residential
- [ ] Distance Education
- [ ] Satellite Campus
- [ ] Contractual Arrangement

Degree Designator(s): M.A.

Current Accreditation Cycle: 6/1/2014 – 5/31/2022

Action Taken: Place on Probation

Effective Date: February 20, 2021

Next Review: Reaccreditation Application due August 1, 2021
End of Probation Report due January 15, 2022

Notices: The program is advised to adhere to the following notices that are appended to this report.

- PROGRAM COMPLIANCE EXPECTATIONS
- PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF DECISION AND ACCREDITATION STATUS
In the context of the institutional and program mission statements and in consideration of the credentials for which the program is preparing students, the CAA conducted its comprehensive review and found the program to be in compliance with the Standards for Accreditation of Graduate Education Programs in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, except as noted below.

**AREAS OF NON-COMPLIANCE**

The CAA found the program to be not in compliance with the following Standards for Accreditation. Non-compliance means that the program does not have in place the essential elements necessary to meet the standard. The program must demonstrate its compliance with these standards when responding to prior concerns in the next annual report or reaccreditation application or by the time line specified below. The CAA will indicate in its review of that report whether the program has addressed these areas sufficiently to achieve compliance. Failure to demonstrate compliance with the standards may jeopardize the program’s accreditation status or require the CAA to place the program on probation.

**Standard 1.9: The program provides information about the program and the institution to students and to the public that is current, accurate, and readily available.**

**Evidence of non-compliance:**
Student outcome measures must be labeled “Student Achievement Data” or “Student Outcome Data.” The program was cited in its last two annual reports for not complying with this requirement. The program noted that missing information was provided to the website administrator and is now posted on the program website. Although data is now more clearly visible on the program homepage and under “admission requirements,” it is labeled “Program Outcomes” which does not meet the expectations under this standard.

**Steps to be Taken:**
At the time of the end of probation report, update the label for student outcome measures in both places it is presented on the program website.

**Standard 1.9: The program provides information about the program and the institution to students and to the public that is current, accurate, and readily available.**

**Evidence of non-compliance:**
At a minimum, the following results of student outcome measures for the most recently completed 3 academic years must be provided:

- Number and percentage of students completing the program within the program’s published time frame for each of the 3 most recently completed academic years,
- Number and percentage of program test-takers who pass the Praxis® Subject Assessment examination for each of the 3 most recently completed academic years (programs need report only the results once for test-takers who take the test more than one time in the reporting period),
• Number and percentage of program graduates employed in the profession or pursuing further education in the profession within 1 year of graduation for each of the 3 most recently completed academic years.

Student outcome measures on the program website do not show the most recently completed 3 academic years. The program was cited in its last two annual reports for not complying with this requirement. The most current year is 2016-2017 for program completion and employment rates and 2018-2019 for Praxis® pass rates. In addition, the website notes “Updated 7/16/18.” Furthermore, only the percentage of students, not the number, is listed for completion, Praxis®, and employment data, which does not meet the expectations for this standard.

Steps to be Taken:
At the time of the end of probation report, document that student outcome measures have been updated to present data from the 3 most recently completed academic years and include both the number and percentage of students/test-takers for each category. Information on presenting student outcome data can be found on the CAA website: https://caa.asha.org/reporting/student-achievement-measures/presenting-student-achievement-data/.

Standard 2.1: The number and composition of the program faculty (academic doctoral, clinical doctoral, other) are sufficient to deliver a program of study that:

2.1.1 allows students to acquire the knowledge and skills required in Standard 3,
2.1.2 allows students to acquire the scientific and research fundamentals of the discipline,
2.1.3 allows students to meet the program’s established goals and objectives,
2.1.4 meets the expectations set forth in the program’s mission and goals,
2.1.5 is offered on a regular basis so that it will allow the students to complete the program within the published time frame.

Evidence of non-compliance:
The program must document the number of individuals in and composition of the group that delivers the program of study. The distribution of faculty also must be presented in terms of the number of full-time and part-time individuals who hold academic doctoral degrees, clinical doctorate degrees, and master’s degrees. The program reports that for FY 2020-2021 there are 5 vacant faculty positions (3 PhD/EdD) and a hiring freeze due to the pandemic. The 4 current PhD/EdD faculty have limitations for the number of courses that they are able to teach due to other responsibilities.

Steps to be Taken:
At the time of the reaccreditation application, provide an update on faculty hires, particularly PhD/EdD positions. The program must describe how the current faculty is sufficient to deliver a program of study despite the hiring freeze.
Standard 2.3: All faculty members (full-time, part-time, adjuncts), including all individuals providing clinical education, are qualified and competent by virtue of their education, experience, and professional credentials to provide academic and clinical education as assigned by the program leadership.

Evidence of non-compliance:
The program must demonstrate that the majority of academic content is taught by doctoral faculty who hold the appropriate terminal academic degree (PhD, EdD). The program reports that for FY 2020-2021 there are 5 vacant faculty positions (3 PhD/EdD) and a hiring freeze due to the pandemic. The 4 current PhD/EdD faculty have limitations for the number of courses that they are able to teach due to other responsibilities.

Steps to be Taken:
At the time of the reaccreditation application, provide an update on faculty hires, particularly PhD/EdD positions. If the program was not able to hire new faculty, demonstrate how the program is able to have the majority of academic content taught by doctoral faculty who hold the appropriate terminal academic degree.

**AREAS FOR FOLLOW-UP (clarification/verification)**

The CAA did not find the program to be out of compliance with the following Standards for Accreditation at this time. However, the program must provide additional information or an update in the program’s next annual report or reaccreditation application for clarification or verification of these issues, in order to monitor the program’s continued compliance in the stated areas.

- There were no areas for follow-up with accreditation standards.

**PERFORMANCE WITH RESPECT TO STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

The CAA has evaluated this program regarding its performance with respect to student achievement and provides the following report, required as an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education [34 CFR 602.17(f)].

Comments/Observations:

| The CAA assessed the program’s performance with respect to student achievement and found the program to meet or exceed the established CAA expectations (as described in accreditation standard 5.0-Assessment) in the following checked areas. Details regarding any of these areas found to be not in compliance are described earlier in this report in the context of the relevant standard. |
|---|---|
| X | Program Completion Rates |
| X | Employment Rates |
| X | Praxis Examination Rates |
PROGRAM COMPLIANCE EXPECTATIONS

As an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education, the CAA must comply with Criterion §602.20 [34 CFR 602.20]. This criterion requires that if an accrediting agency’s review of a program indicates that the program is not in compliance with any standard, the CAA must provide a written timeline to the program to come into compliance that is reasonable, as determined by the CAA, based on the nature of the finding, the stated mission, and educational objectives of the program. The timeline may include intermediate checkpoints on the way to full compliance and must not exceed three years for programs, regardless of professional area. If the review of a second consecutive report reveals that issues continue for the same standard(s) and the program remains not in full compliance with all standards, the CAA may act to place the program on probation or withdraw its accreditation status in accordance with the policy and procedures outlined in the Accreditation Handbook. The CAA may place a program on probation or withdraw accreditation from a program prior to this time when there is clear evidence of circumstances that jeopardize the capability of the program to provide acceptable educational experiences for the students.

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THIS DECISION AND ACCREDITATION STATUS

The CAA publishes a notice of final accreditation actions on its website after comprehensive reviews are completed in accordance with its published policies. In the event an adverse action is taken and becomes final (i.e., withdrawal or withholding of an accreditation status), the CAA is required to publish a brief statement summarizing the reasons for withholding or withdrawing the accreditation status of a program, together with the comments, if any, that the affected program may wish to make.

The Criteria for Recognition by the U.S. Secretary of Education requires all recognized accrediting agencies to provide for the public correction of incorrect or misleading information an accredited or preaccredited program releases about accreditation or preaccreditation status, contents of site visit reports, and accrediting or preaccrediting actions with respect to the program. [34 CFR 602.23(d) and 602.23(e)] The program must make accurate public disclosure of the accreditation or preaccreditation status awarded to the program, using the language provided in the Accreditation Handbook (see Chapter XII Informing the Public) on the academic accreditation website. If the program chooses to disclose any additional information within the scope of the ED rule, such disclosure also must be accurate. Any public disclosure of information within the scope of the rule must include the CAA’s name, address, and telephone number as described in the Accreditation Handbook. If an institution or program misrepresents or distorts any action by the CAA with respect to any aspect of the accreditation process, its accreditation status, the contents of the site visit report, or final CAA accreditation actions or decisions, the CAA will inform the chief executive officer of the institution and the program director that corrective action must be taken. If corrective action is not taken, the CAA will release a public statement that provides correct information and may invoke other sanctions as may be appropriate.