ACCREDITATION ACTION REPORT
End of Probation Report Review

The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology has reviewed the program’s accreditation end of probation report and took the following accreditation action at its September 20 – 22, 2023 meeting, as indicated below.

Name of Program: Bridgewater State University

File #: 322

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

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

Degree Designator(s): MS

Current Accreditation Cycle: 07/01/2021 – 06/30/2026

Action Taken: Continue Probation

Effective Date: September 22, 2023

Next Review: End of Probation Report due February 19, 2024

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

Date of CAA Decision: September 22, 2023
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 – Cause for Probation**

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 report or reaccreditation application or by the timeline 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status or require the CAA to place the program on probation.** A program will be placed on probation or accreditation withdrawn after the review of a second consecutive report reveals that issues continue for the same standard(s) and the program remains not in full compliance with all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 (effective January 1, 2021- see CAA Accreditation Handbook, Chapter XVII).

**Standard 2.2** The number, composition, and workload of all full-time faculty who have responsibility in the graduate program are sufficient to allow them to meet expectations with regard to teaching, research, and service of the sponsoring institution.

**Requirement for Review:**
- The program must demonstrate that all faculty who have responsibility in the graduate program and have obligations to provide teaching, research, and service as part of their workload
  - have sufficient time for scholarly and creative activities.
- The program must demonstrate that all faculty who have responsibility in the graduate program and have obligations to provide clinical education and service as part of their workload
  - have sufficient time for scholarly and creative activities.

**Evidence of Non-Compliance:**
The CAA requires that programs demonstrate that all faculty who have responsibility in the graduate program and have obligations to provide teaching, research, clinical education, and service as part of their workload have sufficient time for scholarly and creative activities. The program was cited in its 2022 Accreditation Action Report for excess faculty workloads leading to concerns that all faculty who have responsibility in the graduate program and obligations to provide teaching, research, clinical education, and service did not have sufficient time for scholarly and creative activities. In the End of Probation Report that was submitted in September 2023, the program reported that there was a temporary faculty member that filled the position for one academic year (AY-2022-2023). In May 2023, the program completed a follow-up in-person site visit that was scheduled due to the program having a virtual accreditation site visit in 2021. This temporary faculty member was present during the site visit. In its End of Probation Report, the program stated that they believed they were in compliance with this standard due to site visitor comments, however they also reported that this temporary faculty member has since resigned, and the role remains vacant. Since the faculty line is now open again as of September 2023, the CAA is unable to determine that the responsibilities of the remaining faculty are distributed in a manner that allows for all faculty to have sufficient time for scholarly and creative activities.

**Steps to Be Taken:**
At the time of the End of Probation Report, the program must provide evidence to demonstrate that the workload is distributed in a way that demonstrates that all faculty who have responsibility in the graduate program have
sufficient time for scholarly and creative activities, despite the unfilled faculty line. Additionally, the program must provide an update on the hiring process for the open clinical educator position or additional faculty members to demonstrate how it is in compliance with Standard 2.2.

**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 the standards of accreditation.
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 US Secretary of Education [34 CFR 602.17(f)].

Comments/Observations:

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<tr>
<th>Program Completion Rates</th>
<th>n/a</th>
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<tr>
<td>Praxis Examination Rates</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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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), regardless of which requirements for review were identified, 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.