

## ACCREDITATION ACTION REPORT

### Re-Accreditation Review

The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology took the following accreditation action at its February 17-20, 2021 meeting, as indicated below.

**Name of Program: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

**File #: 21**

**Professional Area:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Audiology</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Speech-Language Pathology</b>

**Modality:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Residential</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Distance Education</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Satellite Campus</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Contractual Arrangement</b>

**Degree Designator(s): AuD**

**Current Accreditation Cycle: 11/1/2011 – 10/31/2019**

**Action Taken: Continue Accreditation**

**Effective Date: February 20, 2021**

**New Accreditation Cycle: 11/1/2019 – 10/31/2027**

**Next Review: Annual Report due February 1, 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 3.5A: An effective audiology program is organized so that the scientific and research foundations of the profession are evident.**

### **Evidence of non-compliance:**

The program must demonstrate the procedures used to verify that students obtain knowledge in the basic sciences, basic science skills (e.g., scientific methods, critical thinking), and the basics of communication sciences (e.g., acoustics, psychoacoustics and neurological processes of speech, language, and hearing). The program response to the Site Visit Report indicated a plan to document basic sciences in undergraduate courses to be initiated in summer 2021.

### **Steps to be Taken:**

At the time of the annual report, the provide an update on the plan to document basic sciences in undergraduate courses.

**Standard 5.6: The percentage of test-takers who pass the Praxis® Subject Assessments in audiology or speech-language pathology meets or exceeds the CAA's established threshold.**

### **Evidence of non-compliance:**

The CAA's established threshold requires that at least 80% of test-takers from the program pass the Praxis® Subject Assessment examination, as averaged over the 3 most recently completed academic years; results should be reported only once for test-takers who took the exam multiple times in the same examination reporting period. The 3-year pass rate for 2018-2020 academic years is 71% for the audiology program (5 of 7 students passing). The program

response to the Site Visit Report indicated that the Program Policy Committee conducted a review of Praxis® Examination pass rates for the last three years and discovered that a portion of students were taking the Praxis® in the second year of the AuD program. As a result, they have updated the Audiology Student Handbook and program advising to students to take the Praxis® after all academic and clinical work is complete. This plan was implemented beginning fall of 2020.

**Steps to be Taken:**

At the time of annual report, demonstrate that the program meets the 80% threshold for Praxis® pass rates. If the programs does not meet the threshold, proved information on steps taken to improve the pass rate.

**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.

**Standard 3.1A: An effective entry-level professional audiology program allows each student to acquire knowledge and skills in sufficient breadth and depth to enable the student to function as an effective, well-educated, and competent clinical audiologist (i.e., one who can practice within the full scope of practice of audiology). The education program is designed to afford each student with opportunities to meet the expectations of the program that are consistent with the program’s mission and goals and that prepare each student for independent professional practice as an audiologist.**

**Evidence of concern:**

The doctoral program in audiology must offer opportunities for each student to acquire the knowledge and skills needed for entry into independent professional practice, consistent with the scope of practice for audiology and across the range of practice settings. The program response to the Site Visit Report indicated a plan has been developed to improve documentation and utilization of data, clock hours, and student experiences at clinical training sites to be implemented by spring 2021.

**Steps to be Taken:**

At the time of the annual report, provide an update on the implementation of the plan to improve documentation and utilization of data, clock hours, and student experiences at clinical training sites.

## 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:

<i>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 <u>not</u> in compliance are described earlier in this report in the context of the relevant standard.</i>	
X	Program Completion Rates
X	Employment Rates
	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.