

## ACCREDITATION ACTION REPORT

### Candidacy Application

The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology took the following accreditation action at its May 25, 2021 meeting, as indicated below.

**Name of Program: University of Southern California**

**File #: 47**

**Professional Area:**

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

**Modality:**

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

**Degree Designator(s): M.S.**

**Action Taken: Award Candidacy**

**Effective Date: May 25, 2021**

**Candidacy Accreditation Cycle: May 1, 2021 – April 30, 2026**

**Next Review: Annual Progress Report due August 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

The CAA conducted its comprehensive review in the context of the institutional and program mission statements and in consideration of the credentials for which the program is preparing students, and determined that the program demonstrated sufficient compliance with the Standards for Accreditation of Graduate Education Programs in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, unless noted below.

**Standard 2.1 (Faculty Sufficiency-Overall Program)**

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.

*Requirement(s) of the Standard to be met:*

- The program must document the number of individuals in and composition of the group that delivers the program of study.
- The program must document how the faculty composition is sufficient to allow students to meet the expectations set forth in the program’s mission and goals.

Compliance Expectation Determined: *Initiated*

Compliance Expectation for Award of Candidacy Status: *Initiated*

The program expects to hire four full- time faculty, with searches for one PhD level faculty member and a director of clinical education to open in Spring 2021. Additionally, it was noted in the report that, “Once hiring is complete, the program will have a total of 5 individuals whose workload will be allocated completely to the program.”

**Steps to Be Taken:** At the time of the first Annual Progress Report, the program is to provide an update on the results of the searches as all four positions that were to be filled. The program also is to provide vita (Appendix III) for all new hires and an updated faculty table (Appendix II-B: Faculty and Instructional Staff Summary).

**Standard 2.3 (Faculty Qualifications)**

**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.**

*Requirement(s) of the Standard to be met:*

- The program must demonstrate that the qualifications and competence to teach graduate level courses and to provide clinical education are evident in terms of appropriateness of degree level, practical or educational experiences specific to responsibilities in the program, and other indicators of competence to offer graduate education.
- The program must demonstrate that all individuals providing didactic and clinical education, both on-site and off-site, have appropriate experience and qualifications for the professional area in which education is provided.

*Compliance Expectation Determined: Initiated*

*Compliance Expectation for Award of Candidacy Status: Initiated*

As noted by the site visitors, the qualifications and experiences for the four full-time faculty yet to be hired are outlined in the planning documents and are expected to cover the curriculum and related needs of the master's program in speech-language pathology. However, the searches for the first two hires had not yet begun but were expected to be initiated shortly following the site visit.

**Steps to Be Taken:** At the time of the first Annual Progress Report, the program should provide an updated faculty table (Appendix II-B) and vita (Appendix III) for all new hires. The program must demonstrate how it complies with all requirements of this standard.

**Standard 6.3 (Physical Facilities)**

**The program has adequate physical facilities (classrooms, offices, clinical space, research laboratories) that are accessible, appropriate, safe, and sufficient to achieve the program's mission and goals.**

*Requirement(s) of the Standard to be met:*

- The program must demonstrate that its facilities are adequate to deliver a program that is consistent with its mission and goals.

*Compliance Expectation Determined: Initiated*

*Compliance Expectation for Award of Candidacy Status: Initiated*

The program reported that build-out for space for the program is expected to be completed during the 2021-2022 academic year. The current allocated space for faculty and students appears to be appropriate for incoming class for Fall 2021.

**Steps to Be Taken:** At the time of the Annual Progress Report, provide an update on the build-out of the space allocated for the master's program in speech-language pathology or describe any contingency plans if the renovations are not completed.

## **PERFORMANCE WITH RESPECT TO STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

The CAA 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\(f\)](#)]. Upon award of Candidacy status, no students are enrolled in the program; thus student achievement data has not been collected. However, the CAA assessed the program's process for collecting and reporting student achievement data and found the program to meet or exceed the established CAA expectations as described in the Candidacy Compliance Continuum for accreditation standard 5.0 – Assessment.

## **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.