

**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: CUNY, Hunter College**

**File #: 90**

**Professional Area:**

- |                                     |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <b>Audiology</b>                 |
| <input checked="" 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): M.S.**

**Current Accreditation Cycle: 11/1/2018 - 10/31/2026**

**Action Taken: Place on Probation**

**Effective Date: July 24, 2021**

**Next Review: End of Probation Report due June 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- 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 annual 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 2.3 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.**

### **Requirement for Review:**

- The program must demonstrate that the majority of academic content is taught by doctoral faculty who hold the appropriate terminal academic degree (PhD, EdD).

**Evidence of Non-compliance:** The program noted that “25 of the 35 (51%) credits are taught by FTE.” It is not clear which 35 credits are being referred to, the course list includes 64 course credit hours (plus 6 practicum credit hours). Furthermore, it was unclear how the calculation that was reported by the program (“25 of the 35 (51% credits) equaled 51%. Of the 64 required credit hours listed as academic, research, or clinical, only 28 (44%) are provided by faculty with an appropriate terminal degree (PhD, EdD). The program also noted that a search is underway for a full-time, tenure-track position with a target start date of Fall 2021. This is the second consecutive report for which the CAA has cited the program on this standard for being in noncompliance.

**Steps to Be Taken:** At the time of the end of probation report, the program must provide detailed information on how the majority of academic content is taught by doctoral faculty with the appropriate terminal academic degree. Information should include a faculty listing with highest degree earned and academic courses taught with credit hours. In addition, provide an update on the search for the open faculty position.

## AREAS OF NON-COMPLIANCE- First Citation

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 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 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.

### Requirement for Review:

- The program must publish to the general public on its website the program's CAA accreditation status, in accordance with the language specified in the Public Notice of Accreditation Status in the CAA Accreditation Handbook, as required under federal regulations. This must be displayed in a clearly visible and readily accessible location. Additional references to the program's accreditation status must be accurate but need not include all components of the accreditation statement.

**Evidence of Non-compliance:** A program must publish on its website the applicable accreditation statement in its entirety as articulated in this policy. The accreditation statement on the program website, <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/comsc>, has the word "degree" as part of the degree title. The statement should start as "The Master of Science (M.S.) education program..."

**Steps to Be Taken:** At the time of the end of probation report, the program must provide evidence that the accreditation statement on the program's website has been updated to comply with CAA's Public Notice of Accreditation Status policy.

## 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 3.1B** An effective entry-level professional speech-language pathology program allows each student to acquire knowledge and skills in sufficient breadth and depth to function as an effective, well-educated, and competent clinical speech-language pathologist (i.e., one who can practice within the full scope of practice of speech-language pathology).

**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 professional practice in speech-language pathology.**

**Evidence of Concern:** The master’s program in speech-language pathology must establish a clear set of program goals and objectives that must be met for students to acquire the knowledge and skills needed for entry into professional practice. The list of courses provided in the annual report in Section 3.0 includes 70 credit hours of required graduate coursework (8 research, 20 academic, 36 clinical, 6 practicum). However, the total number of credits listed in the report in Section 3.1 has 68 credit hours (60 academic, 4 practicum/clinical, 4 research).

**Steps to Be Taken:** At the time of the end of probation report, the program must clarify the number and types of required courses.

#### **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
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), regardless of which requirements for review are 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.