

ACCREDITATION ACTION REPORT

Re-Accreditation Review

The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology took the following accreditation action at its July 21-24, 2021 meeting, as indicated below.

Name of Program: California State University, Northridge

File #: 112

Professional Area:

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

Modality:

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

Degree Designator(s): M.S.

Current Accreditation Cycle: 04/01/2013 - 03/31/2021

Action Taken: Continue Accreditation

Effective Date: July 24, 2021

New Accreditation Cycle: 04/01/2021 - 03/31/2029

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. A program will be placed on probation or accreditation withdrawn after the review of a second consecutive report reveals that issues continue for the same standard(s) and the program remains not in full compliance with all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 3.2B An effective speech-language pathology program is characterized by planning and organization, is reviewed systematically and on a regular basis, and is consistent with current knowledge and practice guidelines of the profession.

Requirement for Review:

- The program must demonstrate that the
 - curriculum is reviewed systematically and on a regular basis;
 - review of the curriculum is conducted by comparing existing plans with current standards of speech-language pathology practice, current literature, and other documents related to professional practice and education in speech-language pathology.

Evidence of Non-compliance: At the time of the site visit, the program was unable to access electronic formal records from regular curriculum reviews and department meetings to fully document compliance with this standard. In its response to the site visit report, the program reported that review of the curriculum occurs regularly at department meetings and stated that they are repopulating the lost transcripts from department meetings, which will conclude by September 1, 2021.

Steps to Be Taken: By the time of the next annual report, the program must provide official documentation of the systematic review of curriculum and evidence of implementation.

Evidence may include (but is not limited to) items such as official meeting minutes, schedule of past reviews, lists of changes that have occurred as a result of the reviews, evidence of staff training, or other evidence that shows how the curriculum review has been implemented.

Standard 4.2 The program makes reasonable adaptations in curriculum, policies, and procedures to accommodate differences among individual students.

Requirement for Review:

- The program must demonstrate that its language proficiency policy is applied consistently.

Evidence of Non-compliance: The program has published a language proficiency policy on their website since the site visit, however they have not demonstrated that the language proficiency policy is applied consistently.

Steps to Be Taken: At the time of the next annual report, the program will provide evidence that the language proficiency policy is applied consistently. This may include (but is not limited to) evidence such as redacted student records, redacted advising notes, or evidence of staff training on the updated language proficiency policy.

Standard 4.6 Students receive advising on a regular basis that pertains to both academic and clinical performance and progress.

Requirement for Review:

- The program must maintain records demonstrating that any concerns about a student's performance in meeting the program requirements, including language proficiency, are addressed with the student.

Evidence of Non-compliance: The program has published a language proficiency policy on their website since the site visit however, they have not demonstrated how the language proficiency policy is implemented with students.

Steps to Be Taken: At the time of the next annual report, the program will provide evidence of that the language proficiency policy is applied consistently. This may include (but is not limited to) evidence such as redacted student records, redacted advising notes, or evidence of staff training on the application of the updated language proficiency policy.

Standard 5.5 The percentage of students who are enrolled on the first census date of the program and complete the program within the program's published academic terms meets or exceeds the CAA's established threshold.

Requirement for Review:

- The CAA's established threshold requires that at least 80% of students must have completed the program within the program's published time frame (number of academic terms), as averaged over the 3 most recently completed academic years.
- If, when averaged over 3 academic years, the program's completion rate does not meet or exceed the CAA's established threshold, the program must provide an explanation and a plan for improving the results.

Evidence of Non-compliance: The program publishes the following information on its Student Achievement Data webpage for the residential program's completion rate (<https://www.csun.edu/health-human-development/communication-disorders-sciences/student-achievement-data>):

"The State-Side Residential program is a **six-semester program of study**. The State-Side Residential program is comprised of students attending classes on the campus of California State University Northridge. The first table presents the percent of State-Side Residential graduates who are employed in the profession within the first year of graduation, beginning with the most recently completed cohort. The three-year average employment rate for the immediate past three years (2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020) is also presented."

However, the information published on the curriculum map and on the residential program's pagelet states that the program is 5 semesters in length. The program's Strategic Plan states that many students are unable to complete the program in 5 semesters. It is unclear what the program completion rate is for their published 5-semester program, as the data is representative of a 6-semester program of study for the residential program. The expectations for the distance learning program are clearly and consistently stated as 3 years, 10 semesters.

Steps to Be Taken: At the time of the next annual report, the program needs to clarify the expected number of academic terms to complete and how that is used to accurately determine the on-time completion rate for the program. The program must indicate how potential and current students are made aware of the expectation, and document how the program monitors completion of all students.

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 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 Concern: The CAA expects that both the title and the abbreviation for the degree program are included in the accreditation statement. At the time of decision, the program's accreditation statement did not include the degree's abbreviation.

Steps to Be Taken: By the time of the next annual report, provide evidence that the accreditation statement has been updated to comply with CAA's policy on Public Notice of Accreditation Status. The statement should include the underlined addition in the text that follows:

"The Master of Science (M.S.) in Communication Disorders and Sciences education program in speech-language pathology at California State University Northridge is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard, #310, Rockville, MD 20850, 800-498-2071 or 301-296-5700."

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\(f\)\(2\)](#)].

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>	
	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 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.