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 6 – 8, 2022 meeting, as indicated below.

Name of Program: University of Wisconsin, River Falls

File #: 182

Professional Area:

- [X] Audiology
- [ ] Speech-Language Pathology

Modality:

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

Degree Designator(s): M.S.; M.S.Ed.

Current Accreditation Cycle: 9/1/2014 - 8/31/2022

Action Taken: Continue Accreditation

Effective Date: July 8, 2022

New Accreditation Cycle: 9/1/2022 - 8/31/2030

Next Review: Annual Report due August 1, 2023

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 A program will be placed on probation or accreditation withdrawn after the review of a second consecutive report reveals that issues continue for the same standard(s) and the program remains not in full compliance with all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 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:

- Are accessible to students
- Have sufficient time for scholarly and creative activities
- Have sufficient time to advise students
- Have sufficient time to participate in faculty governance
- Have sufficient time to participate in other activities that are consistent with the expectations of the sponsoring institution

**Evidence of Non-Compliance:**
The CAA requires that the program 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 are accessible to students, have sufficient time for scholarly and creative activities, have sufficient time to advise students, and have sufficient time to participate in faculty governance and participate in other activities that are consistent with the expectations of the sponsoring institution.

The site visit team found evidence through faculty and student interviews and the review of work assignments that neither academic nor clinical faculty have sufficient time to meet institutional
expectations. The program responded to the site visit report that it has received approval to hire two tenure-track faculty members and, as a temporary measure, an additional visiting assistant professor to address faculty sufficiency and meet the needs of the curriculum. The program stated that the search for tenure-track faculty will begin in the Fall of 2022 with anticipated start dates for the new faculty in January 2023 or August 2023. The program anticipates filling the position of visiting assistant professor with an anticipated start date in August 2022.

For clinical faculty sufficiency, the site visit team was unable to confirm that sufficient time was being allocated to the director of clinical education. In its response to the site visit report, the program stated that it has plans to expand the clinical director full-time equivalent (FTE) from 0.5 to 1.0 to provide sufficient time to complete all duties, for which this increase in FTE is expected to take effect on July 1, 2022. Since planned faculty hires have not been selected and hired, and the approved increase in the director of clinical education's FTE has not yet been implemented, the program has not demonstrated compliance with the standard.

Steps to Be Taken:
At the time of the next Annual Report, provide evidence that the number of faculty positions is sufficient to allow faculty to meet expectations regarding all requirements for review of this standard. Include an update on the status of the permanent and visiting faculty searches and hire dates, and any other measures taken to ensure faculty sufficiency will be maintained to allow faculty to meet expectations with regard to teaching, research, and service of the sponsoring institution.

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:

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 not in compliance are described earlier in this report in the context of the relevant standard.

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<tr>
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<td>Employment Rates</td>
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<td>Praxis Examination Rates</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.