

**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: South Carolina State University

File #: 240

Professional Area:

☐	Audiology
☒	Speech-Language Pathology

Modality:

☒	Residential
☐	Distance Education
☐	Satellite Campus
☐	Contractual Arrangement

Degree Designator(s): MA

Current Accreditation Cycle: 01/01/2021 – 12/31/2028

Action Taken: Continue Probation

Effective Date: June 17, 2026

Next Review: Annual Report due February 1, 2027;
End of Probation Report (submitted June 8, 2026) - currently under review

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 – July 19, 2025 CAA Decision)

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 A program will be placed on probation or accreditation withdrawn after the review of a second consecutive report reveals that issues continue for the same standard(s) and the program remains not in full compliance with all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

Requirements for Review:

- 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.
- When averaged over 3 academic years, the program's *Praxis*® Subject Assessment exam pass 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:

At the time of review of the program's 2025 annual report, the CAA determined that the program's Praxis examination pass rate, as averaged over the three most recently completed academic years, is below the required 80% threshold. The program was cited for non-compliance for this standard in its 2024 Accreditation Action Report. At that time, the percentage of Praxis test taker pass rates as averaged over the three most recently completed academic years was 78%. The program's current percentage of Praxis test taker pass rates as averaged over the three most recently completed academic years remains below the required 80% threshold at 67%.

Steps to Be Taken:

At the time of the end of probation report, the program must demonstrate that at least 80% of test-takers from the program pass the Praxis exam, as averaged over the three most recently completed academic years. The program must also provide an explanation and a plan for improving these results.

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 2.1 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.**

Requirements for Review:

- The program must document:
 - how the faculty composition is sufficient to allow students to acquire the scientific and research fundamentals of the profession
 - how the faculty composition is sufficient to allow students to meet the program's established learning goals and objectives
 - how the faculty composition ensures that the elements (classes and clinical practica) of the program are offered on a regular basis so that students can complete the program within the published time frame

Evidence of Concern:

In its 2026 annual report, the program reported that it had hired one new adjunct professor and re-engaged a previously employed adjunct professor to support instructional needs. The program acknowledged that these actions did not fulfill the existing full-time faculty vacancy; however, no information was provided regarding an updated hiring plan or timeline to address this gap. Additionally, the Faculty Roster Worksheet indicates that the graduate program chair and the department chair carry classroom teaching allocations of 75% and 50%.

Steps to Be Taken:

At the time of the next annual report, the program must provide an update on its hiring plan, describing how the current reallocations and composition and number of curriculum instructors allows students to acquire essential knowledge, skills, and research fundamentals of the discipline. Additionally, the program's update must demonstrate alignment with the program's mission, goals, and objectives, and confirm that the current faculty composition allows for the curriculum to be offered regularly to allow students to complete the program within the published time frame.

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
	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.