

**ACCREDITATION ACTION REPORT  
End of Probation 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: Universidad Ana G. Mendez - Recinto de Gurabo**

**File #: 287**

**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.**

**Current Accreditation Cycle: 4/1/2016 – 3/31/2024**

**Action Taken: Continue Probation**

**Effective Date: July 17, 2020**

**Probation Date: July 20, 2019**

**Next Review: End of Probation Report due June 26, 2021**

**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.**

**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.**

### **Evidence of Noncompliance:**

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. The program reports a three-year average for the *Praxis*® Exam pass rate at 48.15% with a slight improvement in the passing rate for the most recent year reported (55% pass rate) from one year prior (43%); however, the three-year average remains below the 80% threshold. It is evident that the program is aware of non-compliance for this standard and has identified in the annual report that there are extensive on-going efforts to improve test-taker performance. Challenges identified by the program include the impact of Hurricane Maria in 2017, as well as the *Praxis*® being offered in English only while students' primary language is Spanish. This is the fourth consecutive report the CAA has cited the program for this standard, including the reports filed in 2017, 2018 and 2019, placing the program on probation in 2019. According to the calculation table, test-taker performance has shown slight improvement in the most recent year of reporting.

### **Steps to be Taken:**

At the time of the end of probation report, provide evidence that the *Praxis*® Pass rates are at or above the CAA threshold of 80%. If pass rates are not at 80%, the program must continue to provide evidence that pass rates are improving, and what additional steps the program is taking to improve the pass rates.

## 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 are no areas for follow-up with the accreditation standards.**

## 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 U.S. 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>	
X	Program Completion Rates
X	Employment 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\(a\)\(2\)\(iii\)\]](#). 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 establish timelines for programs that are not in full compliance "to take appropriate action to bring itself into compliance with the agency's standards". As the programs that the CAA accredits are at least two years in length, the maximum time allowed under this criterion is two years. If, after review of a required report, the program remains out of full compliance with any standard and sufficient progress toward compliance has not been demonstrated, 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, as noted above. However, a program will be placed on probation or accreditation withdrawn after the review of a third consecutive report reveals that issues continue for the same standard(s) and the program remains not in full compliance with all standards.

## **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.