

ACCREDITATION ACTION REPORT

Candidacy Review

The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology took the following accreditation action at its July 15-17, 2020 meeting, as indicated below.

Name of Program: Grand Valley State University

File #: 306

Professional Area:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Audiology |
| <input 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): AuD

Action Taken: Award Candidacy

Effective Date: July 17, 2020

Candidacy Accreditation Cycle: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2025

Next Review: Annual Progress Report due August 1, 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

The CAA conducted its comprehensive review in the context of the institutional and program mission statements and in consideration of the credentials for which the program is preparing students, and determined that the program demonstrated sufficient compliance with the Standards for Accreditation of Graduate Education Programs in Audiology and Speech-Language

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.**

Requirement(s) of the Standard to be met:

- the number of individuals in and composition of the group that delivers the program of study;
- the distribution of faculty in terms of the number of full-time and part-time individuals who hold academic doctoral degrees, clinical doctoral degrees, and master’s degrees;

Compliance Expectation Determined: Initiated

Compliance Expectation for Award of Candidacy Status: Initiated

CAA concern and steps to be taken:

The program reported a successful search during Spring 2020 for two audiology faculty positions – one replacement and one new faculty line. The program hired Dr. Jennifer Smart as the Graduate Program Director and Dr. Nicole Kreisman to begin August 2020.

At the time of the annual progress report, confirm that the new audiology faculty members have begun their employment at the university and are in place when the program opens.

PERFORMANCE WITH RESPECT TO STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The CAA 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\(f\)\(2\)](#)]. Upon award of Candidacy status, no students are enrolled in the program; thus student achievement data has not been collected. However, the CAA assessed the program’s process for collecting and reporting student achievement data and

found the program to meet or exceed the established CAA expectations as described in the Candidacy Compliance Continuum for accreditation standard 5.0 – Assessment.

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.