

## ACCREDITATION ACTION REPORT

### Initial Accreditation Review

The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology took the following accreditation action at its February 19-22, 2020 meeting, as indicated below.

**Name of Program: Maryville University**

**File #: 311**

**Professional Area:**

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

**Modality:**

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

**Degree Designator(s): MS**

**Current Candidacy Cycle: 2/1/2016 – 1/31/2021**

**Action Taken: Award Accreditation**

**Effective Date: February 22, 2020**

**New Accreditation Cycle: 2/1/2020 – 1/31/2025**

**Next Review: Annual Report due February 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

*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 3.1B: An effective entry-level professional speech-language pathology program allows each student to acquire knowledge and skills in sufficient breadth and depth to function as an effective, well-educated, and competent clinical speech-language pathologist (i.e., one who can practice within the full scope of practice of speech-language pathology). The education program is designed to afford each student with opportunities to meet the expectations of the program that are consistent with the program's mission and goals and that prepare each student for professional practice in speech-language pathology.**

### **Evidence of Noncompliance:**

The master's program in speech-language pathology must offer opportunities for each student to acquire the knowledge and skills needed for entry into professional practice, consistent with the scope of practice for speech-language pathology, and across the range of practice settings. Students acquire the knowledge and skills needed for the majority of areas of our professional practice, except for aural rehabilitation. The program indicated implementation of an aural rehabilitation module to SPLP 575 Practicum II would occur in spring 2020.

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

At the time of the annual report, provide an update on the implementation of the aural rehabilitation module and how it offers opportunities for students to acquire the requisite knowledge and skills.

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

#### **Evidence of Concern:**

The program must maintain records of advisement for each of its students and maintain records demonstrating that students are advised on a timely and continuing basis regarding their academic and clinical progress. At the time of the site visit, advising records were not available for all students. The program indicated changes in leadership and administration contributed to the lack of consistency in maintaining advising records. The program has outlined an action plan to consolidate and maintain advising documentation with the student's electronic files. A timeline and plan for implementation is in place.

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

At the time of the annual report, provide an update on the effectiveness of the plan for consolidating and maintaining student advisement records.

## 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:**

*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.*

x	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(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.