

ACCREDITATION ACTION REPORT

Candidacy Application

The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology took the following accreditation action at its February 17-20, 2021 meeting, as indicated below.

Name of Program: Brescia University

File #: 344

Professional Area:

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

Modality:

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

Degree Designator(s): M.S.

Action Taken: Award Candidacy

Effective Date: February 20, 2021

Candidacy Accreditation Cycle: February 1, 2021 – January 31, 2026

Next Review: Annual Progress Report due February 1, 2022

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 Pathology, except as noted below.

Standard 3.6B Clinical Settings/Populations

Requirement(s) of the Standard to be met:

The program must demonstrate that it has mechanisms to develop comprehensive plans of clinical educational experiences so that each student has an opportunity to:

- *experience the breadth and depth of clinical practice,*
- *obtain experiences with diverse populations,*
- *obtain a variety of clinical experiences in different work settings,*
- *obtain experiences with appropriate equipment and resources,*
- *learn from experienced speech-language pathologists who will serve as effective clinical educators.*

Compliance Expectation Determined: Initiated

Compliance Expectation for Award of Candidacy Status: Initiated

The program provided documentation to support 17 additional clinical facilities willing to accept students for clinical externships as part of its response to the site visit report. The facilities appear to be in the same geographic region as the university. With the master's program being established as an online program, the Council is interested in how the program will ensure the diversity and depth of clinical placements will be secured for students not living in the region.

Further, the program has been able to extend clinical placements for undergraduate students. It is not clear if the program will continue these opportunities for undergraduates in the additional clinical sites identified for the graduate program and how graduate students would be assured support and access for clinical hours.

Steps to be taken:

Clarify how the program will ensure diversity and depth of clinical placements for students outside of the region of the university, and describe student responsibility, especially as the number of students increases and may diversify.

Standard 5.2 Program Assessment of Students

Requirement(s) of the Standard to be met:

- *The program must demonstrate how it uses its assessments to evaluate and enhance student progress and acquisition of knowledge and skills.*

Compliance Expectation Determined: Initiated

Compliance Expectation for Award of Candidacy Status: Initiated

The program described how faculty plan to interact weekly with students and provide feedback on projects and presentations at intervals during each course. The program reported on its plans to track formative and summative assessments of students. The program needs to elaborate on how faculty are using results of these assessments to improve teaching and educational opportunities.

Steps to be taken:

Provide an update on the tracking system that the program has established to support tracking formative and summative assessments. Describe how results of the formative and summative assessments are being used by the faculty to improve teaching and educational opportunities for students.

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\(f\)](#)]. 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.