

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: Thomas Jefferson University

File #: 345

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.

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

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
 - o experience the breadth and depth of clinical practice,
 - o obtain experiences with diverse populations,
 - o obtain a variety of clinical experiences in different work settings,
 - o obtain experiences with appropriate equipment and resources,
 - o 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 will provide practicum only at off-campus clinical facilities. The program described its access within the Jefferson's Healthcare Network, and additional settings outside of the hospital and outpatient centers affiliated with that network to ensure the diversity and depth of clinical placements and experiences for students in the program. The program will have 30 students in its initial cohort of graduate students that will need to be placed for clinical practicum.

Steps to be taken:

Provide an update on the status of clinical placements and the ability of the program to place all students in practicum in external placements as planned by the program. Provide an updated list of signed contracts for clinical placement sites.

Standard 6.3

Requirement(s) of the Standard to be met:

- *The program must demonstrate that its facilities are adequate to deliver a program that is consistent with its mission and goals.*

Compliance Expectation Determined: Initiated

Compliance Expectation for Award of Candidacy Status: Initiated

The program is expected to have adequate physical facilities (classrooms, offices, clinical space, research laboratories) that are accessible, appropriate, safe, and sufficient to achieve the program's mission and goals. The program reported that permanent space had been identified on the 23rd floor of the Edison Building, however, the space requires renovations that are expected to be completed in Spring 2021. Alternate space has been identified on the 10th floor of the Edison Building.

Steps to be taken:

Provide an update on the renovations for the 23rd floor of the Edison Building and whether the program has moved into that space. If not, clarify whether the 10th floor space in the Edison Building is expected to be permanent or if other space adequate for the program's needs has been designated has been assigned.

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.