

## ACCREDITATION ACTION REPORT

### Candidacy Application

The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology took the following accreditation action at its May 25, 2021 meeting, as indicated below.

**Name of Program:** Indiana University South Bend

**File #:** 347

**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:** May 25, 2021

**Candidacy Accreditation Cycle:** May 1, 2021 – April 30, 2026

**Next Review:** Annual Progress Report due August 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, unless noted below.

**Standard 1.9 (Public Information)**

**The program provides information about the program and the institution to students and to the public that is current, accurate, and readily available.**

*Requirement(s) of the Standard to be met:*

- *Websites, catalogs, advertisements, and other publications/electronic media must be accurate regarding the program's accreditation status. The program must indicate the program's CAA accreditation status in accordance with the language specified in the Public Notice of Accreditation Status, in the CAA Accreditation Handbook, as required under federal regulations.*

*Compliance Expectation Determined: Initiated*

*Compliance Expectation for Award of Candidacy Status: Initiated*

The CAA, through its Public Notice of Accreditation Status policy in the *CAA Accreditation Handbook*, recommends programs that have submitted an application for candidacy use the specific language from that policy on their website and in promotional materials. The CAA requires the degree title and degree designator be included for all status statements. The program's current accreditation statement on its website does not reflect the recommended statement in its entirety, i.e., is missing the full title of the degree – Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology (M.S.).

When programs are awarded candidacy, the CAA's required language must be used, the template is as follows:

The [master's degree title (+ designator/abbreviation) education program in speech-language pathology and/or the doctoral degree title (+ designator/abbreviation) education program in audiology] at [name of parent institution of higher education] is a Candidate for Accreditation by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard, #310, Rockville, MD 20850, 800-498-2071 or 301-296-5700. Candidacy is a "preaccreditation" status with the CAA, awarded to developing or emerging programs for a maximum period of 5 years.

**Steps to Be Taken:** At the time of the first Annual Progress Report, the program must ensure that the accreditation statement has been updated to reflect all of the required language as noted in the *CAA Accreditation Handbook* and reflects the program's current status.

**Standard 2.3 (Faculty Qualifications)**

All faculty members (full-time, part-time, adjuncts), including all individuals providing clinical education, are qualified and competent by virtue of their education, experience, and professional credentials to provide academic and clinical education as assigned by the program leadership.

*Requirement(s) of the Standard to be met:*

- The program must demonstrate that the majority of academic content is taught by doctoral faculty who hold the appropriate terminal academic degree (PhD, EdD).

Compliance Expectation Determined: *Initiated*

Compliance Expectation for Award of Candidacy Status: *Initiated*

At the date of decision, there are only two individuals (Essig and Burch) listed in the review materials and vitas provided (Appendix III) for the program; both are master's-level faculty. The program noted that a PhD faculty member is on loan from the undergraduate program. However, a review of Appendix II-B: Faculty and Instructional Staff Summary – Speech-Language Pathology shows only the two faculty members. There are hiring plans in place for three PhD/EdD level faculty and an allowance for adjuncts or guest speakers. Based on this hiring plan the program expects to meet the expectations of this requirement for PhD/EdD faculty teaching between 61-74% of the academic course credits. The department website currently lists three master's-level faculty and one PhD level faculty--Essig, Burch, Hatfield, and Springle (PhD).

**Steps to Be taken:** At the time of the first Annual Progress Report, the program must demonstrate that faculty have been hired and that these faculty have PhD or EdD degrees. An updated plan for hiring should include the positions which have been approved and funded by the university. Additionally, the program should provide a provisional plan should appropriate candidates not be found.

Describe how faculty and instructional staff information reported in Appendix II (Faculty Vita) and Appendix III (Faculty and Instructional Staff Summary) demonstrate that the individuals delivering the program are qualified to teach the assigned academic classes or provide the assigned clinical education, and that the majority of academic content is taught by doctoral faculty who hold a PhD or EdD.

**Standard 6.3 (Physical Facilities)**

The program has adequate physical facilities (classrooms, offices, clinical space, and research laboratories) that are accessible, appropriate, safe, and sufficient to achieve the program's mission and goals.

*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 had adequate office space until rooms had to be given to the master's program in nursing (MSN) faculty that were on campus one day per week. It was indicated that the administration has been made aware of the situation but discussions were ongoing. Per the site visit report, Alisha Springle, PhD, has been provided a permanent office space and another office space has been secured for the next hire.

**Steps to Be Taken:** At the first Annual Progress Report, provide an update describing the current state of faculty office space and information on how current and future faculty will be provided with adequate office space.

## 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.