

## ACCREDITATION ACTION REPORT

### Candidacy Application

The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology took the following accreditation action at its February 13, 2023 special decision meeting, as indicated below.

**Name of Program:** University of Scranton

**File #:** 365

**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 13, 2023

**Candidacy Accreditation Cycle:** February 1, 2023 – January 31, 2028

**Next Review:** First Annual Progress Report due February 1, 2024

**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 2.3 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**

**CAA concern and steps to be taken:**

The CAA requires that programs demonstrate that the majority of academic content is taught by doctoral faculty who hold the appropriate terminal academic degree, either a Ph.D. or Ed.D. The Council acknowledges the comment in response to the initial observations that there are a variety of doctoral degrees that the U.S. Department of Education hold as an equivalent to the Ph.D., however, the Standard is prescriptive about the two doctoral degrees that are acceptable to meet the requirements of review. The program's hiring plan for additional faculty indicates a mix of clinical and research doctoral degrees.

In response to the first Annual Progress Report, the program must provide evidence that the majority of the academic content is taught by doctoral faculty who hold a Ph.D or Ed.D through an updated faculty list and updated teaching assignments as faculty lines are filled.

**Standard 6.6 The program has access to clerical and technical staff that is appropriate and sufficient to support the work of the students, faculty, and staff. The access is appropriate and sufficient for the program to meet its mission and goals.**

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

- The program must demonstrate adequate access to clerical and technical staff to support the work of the students, faculty, and staff.

Compliance Expectation Determined: **Planned**

Compliance Expectation for Award of Candidacy Status: **Initiated**

**CAA concern and steps to be taken:**

The CAA requires programs to demonstrate adequate access to clerical and technical staff.

The site visit report noted that the search for clerical staff was set to begin in January 2023, and that the program director cannot adequately perform duties without the support of the clerical staff position being filled. In response to the site visit report, the program noted that their search resulted in a declined offer, but that they are confident that the role will be filled by early spring.

In response to the first Annual Progress Report, the program must provide an update on the hiring progress for clerical staff.

## **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.