

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: MGH Institute of Health Professions

File #: 367

Professional Area:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Audiology |
| <input 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): AuD

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 1.8 The institution and program must comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and executive orders prohibiting discrimination towards students, faculty, staff, and persons served in the program’s clinics. This includes prohibitions on discrimination based on any category prohibited by applicable law but not limited to age, citizenship, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, and veteran status.

Requirement(s) of the Standard to be met:

- The program must adhere to its institutional policies and procedures—including non-harassment policies, internal complaint procedures, and appropriate educational programs—to ensure that the program complies with all applicable nondiscrimination statutes and that all staff, faculty, and students are made aware of the policies and the conduct they prohibit.

Compliance Expectation Determined: **Initiated**

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

CAA concern and steps to be taken:

The CAA requires that programs must adhere to its institutional policies and procedures, including internal complaint procedures. In the application for Candidacy, the program noted that the complaint procedure was in development. The CAA would like to review the completed complaint procedure when it is finalized and added to the handbook.

In response to the first annual progress report, the program must provide the finalized complaint policy and procedure.

Standard 3.9A Clinical education obtained in external placements is governed by agreements between the program and the external facility and is monitored by program faculty.

Requirement(s) of the Standard to be met:

- The program must have evidence of valid agreements (written or electronic) with all active external facilities in which students are placed for clinical practicum experiences.

Compliance Expectation Determined: **Planned**

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

CAA concern and steps to be taken:

The CAA requires that programs have evidence of valid agreements with all active external facilities in which students are placed for clinical practicum experiences. The site visit report noted that the program could not provide signed copies of affiliation agreements with clinical sites. In response to the site visit report, the program noted that affiliation agreements are drafted for each student at the start of their clinical experience and thus it cannot provide an example prior to the launch of the program. The program provided letters that represent memorandums of understanding (MOU) between four clinical sites and the program. The CAA is looking for signed legal agreements made between the program and the external facility in anticipation of the clinical education needs of the students.

In response to the first annual progress report, the program must provide copies of all signed agreements between the program and the external clinical facilities that will be used for student placement.

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.
- The program must demonstrate how access to the clerical and technical staff helps the program meet its mission and goals.

Compliance Expectation Determined: **Planned**

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

CAA concern and steps to be taken:

The CAA requires that programs demonstrate adequate access to clerical and technical staff and to demonstrate how access to the clerical and technical staff helps the program meet its mission and goals. The site visit report noted that hiring plans for support staff had not yet been initiated. In response to the site visit report, the program noted that recruitment for a program coordinator in support of the audiology program will begin in April 2023, and the hope is to fill the role by May 1, 2023.

In response to the first annual progress report, the program must provide an update concerning the hiring of a program coordinator.

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.