

**ACCREDITATION ACTION REPORT  
Candidacy Application Review**

The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology took the following accreditation action at its February 7-9, 2024 meeting, as indicated below.

**Name of Program: Auburn University, Montgomery**

**File #: 375**

**Professional Area:**

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

**Modality:**

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

**Degree Designator(s):**

**MS**

**Action Taken:**

**Award Candidacy**

**Effective Date:**

**February 9, 2024**

**Candidacy Accreditation Cycle:**

**02/01/2024 – 01/31/2029**

**Next Review:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Annual Progress Report due February 1, 2025**

**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 2.2 Faculty Sufficiency**

**The number, composition, and workload of all full-time faculty who have responsibility in the graduate program are sufficient to allow them to meet expectations with regard to teaching, research, and service of the sponsoring institution.**

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

- The program must demonstrate that faculty who are tenure eligible have the opportunity to meet the criteria for tenure of the sponsoring institution.

Compliance Expectation Determined: **Planned**

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

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

The site visit team could not verify the expected level of compliance that the program demonstrated that faculty who are eligible for tenure or promotion have the opportunity to meet the criteria for tenure of the sponsoring institution. In its response to the site visit report, the program provided evidence of planned activities to mitigate the workload for current faculty by hiring additional admin and clinical supervisors as well as provide frequent in-service workshops aimed at informing and advising faculty on tenure and promotions.

At the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Progress Report, the program must demonstrate that the program's plans (referenced in the response to the site visit report) have been initiated relating to faculty understanding and awareness of the promotion/tenure processes.

**Standard 3.3B Sequence of Learning**

**An effective speech-language pathology program is planned and delivered in an organized, sequential, and integrated manner to allow each student to meet the program's established learning goals and objectives and develop into a competent speech-language pathologist.**

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

- The program must demonstrate how the courses and clinical experiences are organized and sequenced and allow for integration across all elements of the program.

Compliance Expectation Determined: **Initiated**

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

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

The site visit team could not verify that the program demonstrated the expected level of compliance with this standard, noting that the program's sequencing of courses was not properly aligned with the acquisition of skills and knowledge needed for students to engage in clinical practicum. In response to the site visit report, the program provided an updated course sequence and explained that its initial rationale prior to this adjustment was to expedite exposure for students with prior clinical experience as SLPAs to adult populations. The program also provided the following statement in its site visit report response:

"For graduate students to be assigned to clinical practicum sites, he or she must have

completed the related coursework prior to start date of the clinical placement or be enrolled in related coursework concurrently with clinical placement. The program of study is sequenced with this in consideration. It places specific courses early in the program to ensure that the students have acquired, or are in the process of acquiring, the required academic knowledge and skills for successful completion of each clinical experience.”

The CAA could not locate this statement or similar guidance in any program materials beyond the response to the site visit report.

At the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Progress Report, the program must provide an update to clarify whether this statement regarding assignment to clinical practicum sites will be included as a policy within any program handbooks.

## **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.