

ACCREDITATION ACTION REPORT
Candidacy Application Review

The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology took the following accreditation action at its May 14, 2025 meeting, as indicated below.

Name of Program: Augusta University

File #: 385

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): MHS

Action Taken: Award Candidacy

Effective Date: May 14, 2025

Candidacy Accreditation Cycle: 05/01/2025 – 04/30/2030

Next Review: 1st Annual Progress Report due August 1, 2026

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 3.5B An effective speech-language pathology program is organized so that the scientific and research foundations of the profession are evident.

Requirement(s) of the Standard to be met:

The program must demonstrate the procedures used to verify that students obtain knowledge in:

- The basic sciences and statistics
- Basic science skills (e.g., scientific methods, critical thinking)
- The basics of communication sciences (e.g., acoustics, linguistics, and neurological processes of speech, language, and hearing).

Compliance Expectation Determined: Planned/Initiated

Compliance Expectation for Award of Candidacy Status: Initiated

CAA concern and steps to be taken:

Standard 3.5B requires a program to demonstrate that its speech-language pathology program is organized so that the scientific and research foundations of the profession are evident. At the time of the candidacy site visit, the site visit team found that the program did not require entering students to have a speech and hearing science course prior to enrollment and neither a complete course, nor expected content areas for a typical introductory course in speech and hearing science, were included in the graduate curriculum. In its response to the site visit report, the program reported that it had updated its website to reflect a required prerequisite course for admission. The program also reported that it is preparing to submit a course proposal for SLPP 2106 - Speech and Hearing Science, which will provide undergraduate students with foundational sciences, as part of the Fall 2026 Curriculog cycle for the BSHS Pre-SLP Concentration at Augusta University, launching in Fall 2025. The program also reported that it has begun identifying admitted students who may not have completed an undergraduate course in speech and hearing science, and will develop a six-week seminar course that will provide targeted instruction in foundational speech and hearing science content as a contingency plan.

At the time of the first annual progress report, the program must demonstrate how it provides academic support to students who might have been admitted to the program prior to the prerequisite course requirement being implemented. The program must provide an update on how it is verifying that any students identified as missing this knowledge are obtaining it.

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.