

**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 11-13, 2026 meeting, as indicated below.

Name of Program: Penn State Harrisburg

File #: 392

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): MS

Action Taken: Award Candidacy

Effective Date: February 13, 2026

Candidacy Accreditation Cycle: 02/01/2026 – 01/31/2031

Next Review: 1st Annual Review due February 1, 2027

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 2.1 The number and composition of the program faculty (academic doctoral, clinical doctoral, other) are sufficient to deliver a program of study that:
2.1.1 allows students to acquire the knowledge and skills required in Standard 3,
2.1.2 allows students to acquire the scientific and research fundamentals of the discipline,
2.1.3 allows students to meet the program’s established goals and objectives,
2.1.4 meets the expectations set forth in the program’s mission and goals,
2.1.5 is offered on a regular basis so that it will allow the students to complete the program within the published time frame.

Requirement(s) of the Standard to be met:

- The program must document:
 - the distribution of faculty in terms of the number of full-time and part-time individuals who hold academic doctoral degrees, clinical doctoral degrees, and master degrees
 - how the faculty composition is sufficient to allow students to acquire the knowledge and skills required in Standard 3
 - how the faculty composition is sufficient to allow students to meet the program’s established learning goals and objectives
 - how the faculty composition ensures that the elements (classes and clinical practica) of the program are offered on a regular basis so that students can complete the program within the published time frame

Compliance Expectation Determined: Planned, Initiated
Compliance Expectation for Award of Candidacy Status: Initiated

CAA Concern/Feedback:

At the time of the candidacy site visit, it was noted that the university had not yet approved the hiring of two tenure-track faculty lines. In response to the site visit report, the program provided a memo from the institution granting approval to fill the two new open faculty positions.

Steps to Be Taken:

At the time of the first annual progress report, the program must provide an update on its recruitment efforts and demonstrate that its current faculty composition is sufficient to deliver the program of study.

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: Planned, Initiated

Compliance Expectation for Award of Candidacy Status: Initiated

CAA Concern/Feedback:

At the time of the candidacy site visit, it was noted that because the university had not yet approved the hiring of the two tenure-track faculty positions, the site visit team could not verify whether the majority of the academic content would be taught by individuals holding the appropriate terminal academic degree (PhD or EdD). In response to the site visit report, the program provided the university's approval, in the form of a memo, to hire two faculty members holding the required terminal degree (PhD or EdD).

Steps to Be Taken:

At the time of the first annual progress report, the program must provide an update on the faculty hiring and their credentials. In addition, the program must demonstrate that the majority of its academic content is taught by faculty holding a PhD or EdD.

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.