



August 31, 2023

Tessa McCarthy, PhD  
Visual Impairment and Blindness Program  
University of Pittsburgh

Via: [tessam@pitt.edu](mailto:tessam@pitt.edu)

Dear Dr. McCarthy,

By this letter I am confirming that University of Pittsburgh, Visual Impairment Program, is engaged in a re-accreditation review for its Orientation and Mobility Program and its Teachers of the Visually Impaired Program. A panel of qualified professionals is in place. A schedule of meetings is established. Ongoing communication with the Visual Impairment Program is supporting the work of the review panel.

During the process, AER Accreditation Council maintains in good standing the accreditation of both the Orientation and Mobility Program and the Teachers of Visually Impaired Program.

Upon completion of their review the panel will produce a report which will be reviewed for any factual errors by the University whereupon the Higher Education Accreditation Commission will forward a recommendation to the AER Accreditation Council which will make the final decision.

The process should be completed sometime in the fourth quarter of this year.

Yours truly,

Elly du Pré, DPA  
AER Accreditation Program Manager

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired  
**Accreditation Program**  
5680 King Centre Drive,  
Alexandria, Virginia 22315



October 19, 2022

Dr. Frances Mary D'Andrea  
Program Coordinator, Visual Impairment & Blindness  
Dept. of Teaching, Learning, & Leading  
University of Pittsburgh

via email to: [fmd22@pitt.edu](mailto:fmd22@pitt.edu)

Dear Dr. D'Andrea,

By this letter I am confirming that the University of Pittsburgh is engaged in the accreditation process for its Orientation and Mobility Program. AER Accreditation (AERAC) is in regular contact with the program.

Upon receipt of the program's completed self-study with links to supporting documentation, AERAC will form a panel of four individuals who have been confirmed by the university as having no conflicts of interest.

Upon completion of their review the panel will produce a report and a recommendation. The recommendation will be reviewed by the Higher Education Accreditation Commission and then a final decision will be rendered by the AER Accreditation Council.

The process should be completed in the first part of 2023. The program remains in Full Accreditation status during this process.

Yours truly,

Elly du Pre, DPA  
AER Accreditation Program Manager



**Association for Education and Rehabilitation  
of the Blind and Visually Impaired**

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Tessa McCarthy, PhD  
University of Pittsburgh  
Vision Studies Program  
4200 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Dear Dr. McCarthy,

Congratulations! It is with great enthusiasm that I inform you that University of Pittsburgh's Orientation and Mobility program is in full compliance with the standards set forth in the AER University Review Program; and has earned the distinction "AER Approved." This approval is effective June 1, 2017; and will expire May 31, 2022 at 11:59pm Eastern.

Following this letter, AER will announce to its membership that your university has earned and been awarded this distinction. Also, please note that the university is expected to complete and submit an Annual Update Report which confirms that the university remains in compliance. The report is also used to communicate any changes in the program. A form will be submitted to you. Your first Annual Update Report will be due June 1, 2018.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Angela Smith at [angela@aerbvi.org](mailto:angela@aerbvi.org). Again, congratulations! AER is grateful for the high standards reflected in your program and fully values your commitment to the Orientation and Mobility field.

Sincerely,

Lou Tutt  
Executive Director

cc: William Wiener, University Review Committee Chair