

December 9, 2020

Dr. Bernard Rousseau
University of Pittsburgh
Communication Science and Disorders Dept
6035 Forbes Tower
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

CAA File #17

Dear Dr. Rousseau,

We are happy to inform you that the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) has approved your annual report for the master's program in speech-language pathology.

Your next annual report is due August 1, 2021 and will be submitted through the online reporting system. Approximately four months prior to the due date of your report, you will be sent a reminder that the program's next report to the CAA is due for submission.

The issues related to standards compliance provided in the attached *Accreditation Action Report* must be addressed in the program's next CAA report. The CAA expects that the program will demonstrate full compliance with the standards cited by the time of the next CAA report. If there is not sufficient evidence of full compliance by that date, the program's accreditation may be in jeopardy, in keeping with the US Department of Education's criteria for CAA's recognition:

(b) if the institution or program does not bring itself into compliance within the specified period, the agency must take immediate adverse action unless the agency, for good cause, extends the period for achieving compliance.

The CAA considers timely submission of all accreditation reports and fees a critical condition for continued accredited status. Thus, a program will be placed on Administrative Probation when it has not met its reporting and/or financial expectations to the CAA. Administrative Probation is an action taken by the CAA as a result of failure, by established deadlines, to complete and file any accreditation report, including all special requests for information or pay annual accreditation fees.

Notification of Changes:

When the CAA awards or approves to continue an accreditation status, it does so based on the expectation that the program will continue to comply with all accreditation standards over the term of accreditation. On occasion, changes occur prior to the next regularly scheduled CAA report and require immediate notification to the CAA. These include:

1. Changes in institutional accreditation status
2. Program director changes
3. Administrative structure changes
4. Program closure

Should any of these changes occur prior to your next CAA report, please refer to the detailed information about the CAA's policies and procedures, which are available in Chapter XI Expectations of Program in the [Accreditation Handbook](#).

Public Notice of Accreditation Status:

The CAA has clarified that both the degree title and degree designator (abbreviation) must be included in the program's accreditation status statements. For example, the lead in language for the accreditation status statement published by the program should begin, "The Master of Science (M.S.) education program" or "The Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) education program". Programs would use the title and designator affiliated with their program. Refer to the CAA [Accreditation Handbook](#) (Chapter XII Informing the Public) for the appropriate language to use in publicizing your program's accreditation status:

The [master's degree title (+ designator/abbreviation) education program in speech-language pathology and/or the doctoral degree title (+ designator/abbreviation) education program in audiology] at [name of parent institution of higher education] is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard, #310, Rockville, MD 20850, 800-498-2071 or 301-296-5700.

We look forward to continued discussions with you regarding the ongoing development and quality improvement of your program to prepare future professionals in audiology and speech-language pathology. Please let us know if we can assist your program in any way.

Sincerely,



Nancy B. Alarcon, Chair
Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology

cc: Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA)
Program file

**ACCREDITATION ACTION REPORT
Annual Report Review**

The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology has reviewed the program's accreditation annual report and took the accreditation action indicated below.

Name of Program:

File #: 17

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):

Current Accreditation Cycle: 05/01/2018 - 04/30/2026

Action Taken: Approve to continue accreditation standards

Effective Date: December 8, 2020

Next Review: Annual Report August 1, 2021

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

In the context of the institutional and program mission statements and in consideration of the credentials for which the program is preparing students, the CAA conducted its comprehensive review and found the program to be in compliance with the Standards for Accreditation of Graduate Education Programs in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, except as noted below.

AREAS OF NON-COMPLIANCE

The CAA found the program to be not in compliance with the following Standards for Accreditation. Non-compliance means that the program does not have in place the essential elements necessary to meet the standard. The program must demonstrate its compliance with these standards when responding to prior concerns in the next annual report or reaccreditation application or by the time line specified below. The CAA will indicate in its review of that report whether the program has addressed these areas sufficiently to achieve compliance. **Failure to demonstrate compliance with the standards may jeopardize the program's accreditation status or require the CAA to place the program on probation.**

- **There were no areas of non-compliance with accreditation standards.**

AREAS FOR FOLLOW-UP (clarification/verification)

The CAA did not find the program to be out of compliance with the following Standards for Accreditation at this time. However, the program must provide additional information or an update in the program's next annual report or reaccreditation application for clarification or verification of these issues, in order to monitor the program's continued compliance in the stated areas.

- **There were no areas for follow-up with accreditation standards.**

PERFORMANCE WITH RESPECT TO STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The CAA has evaluated this program regarding its performance with respect to student achievement and provides the following report, required as an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education [[34 CFR 602.17\(f\)](#)].

Comments/Observations:

<i>The CAA assessed the program's performance with respect to student achievement and found the program to meet or exceed the established CAA expectations (as described in accreditation standard 5.0-Assessment) in the following checked areas. Details regarding any of these areas found to be <u>not</u> in compliance are described earlier in this report in the context of the relevant standard.</i>	
x	Program Completion Rates
x	Employment Rates
x	Praxis Examination Rates

PROGRAM COMPLIANCE EXPECTATIONS

As an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education, the CAA must comply with Criterion §602.20 [[34 CFR 602.20](#)]. This criterion requires that if an accrediting agency's review of a program indicates that the program is not in compliance with any standard, the CAA must provide a written timeline to the program to come into compliance that is reasonable, as determined by the CAA, based on the nature of the finding, the stated mission, and educational objectives of the program. The timeline may include intermediate checkpoints on the way to full compliance and must not exceed three years for programs, regardless of professional area. If the review of a second consecutive report reveals that issues continue for the same standard(s) and the program remains not in full compliance with all standards, the CAA may act to place the program on probation or withdraw its accreditation status in accordance with the policy and procedures outlined in the [Accreditation Handbook](#). The CAA may place a program on probation or withdraw accreditation from a program prior to this time when there is clear evidence of circumstances that jeopardize the capability of the program to provide acceptable educational experiences for the students.

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.