

ACCREDITATION ACTION REPORT

Re-accreditation (or Initial Accreditation) Review

The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology took the following accreditation action at its July 19-22, 2017 meeting, as indicated below.

Name of Program: Armstrong State University

File #: 281

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

Current Accreditation Cycle: 1/1/2009 - 12/31/2016

Action Taken: Continue Accreditation

Effective Date: July 22, 2017

New Accreditation Cycle: 1/1/2017 – 12/31/2025

Next Review: Annual Report due February 1, 2018

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 timeline 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 are no areas of non-compliance with accreditation standards.

AREAS OF PARTIAL COMPLIANCE

The CAA found the program to be in partial compliance with the following Standards for Accreditation. Partial compliance means that the program has in place some, but not all, of the essential elements necessary to meet all aspects of 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 timeline 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.**

Standard: 2.2 (2017 Std. 2.1)

Element(s) of the standard to be met: Workload assignments; Overall faculty sufficiency meets program mission

Evidence of partial-compliance: There is not a full time clinical coordinator to administer the clinic, but rather is assigned to a faculty member, that is already assigned a four course, 12 hours per semester teaching load. In addition, part-time instructors, who do not have regular faculty

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appointments, conduct all clinical supervision. The faculty reported that clinic supervisors are assigned 3-4 students during each time slot, which suggests that they do not have sufficient time to vary the level of supervision for each student should they require additional supervision. The program indicates that a search for a full-time clinical coordinator was granted April 2016, and a request for a full-time clinical instructor was made to the university's Provost in summer 2016.

Steps to be Taken: At the time of the next Annual Report, provide an update on the status for these two positions.

Standard: 6.4 (2017 Std. 6.6)

Element(s) of the standard to be met: Sufficiency of support/technical resources

Evidence of partial-compliance: The program's clinic is in need of additional clerical support. Part time student helpers currently staff the clinic reception area. This requires the program administrative assistant, the faculty and supervisors to assume additional operational/clinical responsibilities. The program indicates that a request for a full-time administrative assistant was made to the university's Provost Summer 2016.

Steps to be Taken: At the time of the next Annual Report, provide the status of the status of obtaining additional clerical support. If this position is not approved, explain what additional resources are being provided and how they are being applied to cover this work.

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.

Standard: 6.2 (2017 Std. 6.3)

Element(s) of the standard to be met: Adequacy of physical facilities

Evidence of Concern: Four individual clinical rooms provide limited clinical space for twenty students in each cohort of graduate students in that it does not adequately provide for students' clinical schedules, assignments, flexibility of assignments and observation of 3-4 students in a given block of time. However, a new health professions facility is being built and the program will have a space in this building.

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Steps to be Taken: At the time of the next annual report, provide an update on the status of the new facility.

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\(f\)\(2\)](#)].

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 US Secretary of Education [[34 CFR 602.17\(f\)\(2\)](#)].

PERFORMANCE WITH RESPECT TO STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Comments/Observations:

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 not in compliance are described earlier in this report in the context of the relevant standard.

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\(a\)\(2\)\(iii\)](#)]. 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 establish timelines for programs that are not in full compliance “to take appropriate action to bring itself into compliance with the agency’s standards”. As the programs that the CAA accredits are at least two years in length, the maximum time allowed under this criterion is two years. If, after review of a required report, the program remains out of full compliance with any standard and sufficient progress toward compliance has not been demonstrated, 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](#).
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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, as noted above. However, a program will be placed on probation or accreditation withdrawn after the review of a third consecutive report reveals that issues continue for the same standard(s) and the program remains not in full compliance with all standards.

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.