

**ACCREDITATION ACTION REPORT  
Re-accreditation Review**

The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology took the following accreditation action at its February 15-18, 2017 meeting, as indicated below.

**Name of Program: Carlos Albizu University**

**File #: 299**

**Professional Area:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Audiology</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Speech-Language Pathology</b>

**Modality:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Residential</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Distance Education</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Satellite Campus</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Contractual Arrangement</b>

**Degree Designator(s): M.S.**

**Current Accreditation Cycle: 2/1/2012 - 1/31/2017**

**Action Taken: Continue Accreditation**

**Effective Date: 2/18/2017**

**New Accreditation Cycle: 2/1/2017- 1/31/2025**

**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 should demonstrate its compliance with these standards in the Prior Concerns section of the next Annual Report 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.

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 in the Prior Concerns section of the next Annual Report 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.

#### **Standard: 2.2 (2017 Standard 2.3)**

*Element(s) of the standard to be met:* Sufficient research doctoral faculty

#### **Evidence of Partial Compliance:**

The program is relying heavily on non-doctoral or clinical doctoral faculty. Fewer than 50% of the academic courses taught on each of the three campuses (7/19 at San Juan; 6/19 at Mayaguez; 8/19 at Miami) are taught by research-doctorate faculty. Some faculty are working toward doctoral degrees; however, many of those are in related areas (e.g., special education administration) or clinical doctorates in speech-language pathology. Furthermore, the program is advertising for faculty with academic preparation requirements listed as part of the announcement. However, qualifications for research doctorally prepared individuals is not indicated.

#### **Steps to be Taken:**

At the time of the next report, provide an update on progress made in filling faculty positions particularly with research doctorally prepared faculty.

#### **Standard: 5.3 (2017 Standard 5.3)**

*Element(s) of the standard requiring follow-up:* Results used for program improvement

#### **Evidence of Concern:**

The program does collect data to assess the program, but it is not clear how this data is used in evaluating program effectiveness.

**Steps to be Taken:**

At the time of the next report, describe how data is used to evaluate program effectiveness.

**AREAS FOR FOLLOW-UP (clarification/verification)**

The program should provide an update in the next Annual Report on the issues related to the following standards for accreditation. The CAA did not find the program to be out of compliance with these standards at this time, but requires that additional information be provided in the next Annual Report in order to monitor the program’s continued compliance in the stated areas.

**Standard: 6.2 (2017 Standard 6.3)**

Element(s) of the standard requiring follow-up: Adequacy of physical facilities, Accommodations for disabilities

**Evidence of Concern:**

The program reports space limitations and plans for alternative clinic observations. Additionally, budget approval for building improvements (automatic door opener in the main entrance for handicapped) has been approved.

**Steps to be Taken:**

At the time of the next report, provide an update on the progress of these changes.

*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](#). 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, 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.