



August 22, 2017

Dr. Fang-Ling Lu  
University of Texas HSC San Antonio  
School of Health Professions  
7703 Floyd Curl Dr  
San Antonio, TX 78229

RE: CA #327 University of Texas San Antonio SLP – Award Candidacy

Dear Dr. Lu,

I am writing to inform you that during its July 18-22, 2017 meeting, the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) completed its review of the Level II Candidacy application for the master's program in speech-language pathology (MS) at University of Texas San Antonio. This was based on a thorough review of all candidacy materials for the program including the official application, site visit report, and the program's correspondence throughout the review period. As a result, the CAA voted to:

- ☒ **AWARD CANDIDACY** to the master's program in speech-language pathology for a period of five years beginning July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2022. The CAA determined that the program demonstrated sufficient compliance with the Standards for Accreditation, as outlined in the Standards Compliance Continuum. The program has been awarded a candidacy cycle of five years, will be listed as achieving accreditation candidate status, and will be included in all lists of candidate programs by the CAA. Award of candidacy allows the program to matriculate students into the program as it continues to document compliance with accreditation standards for the duration of the candidacy accreditation cycle.

The first annual progress report is due August 1, 2018. The CAA determined that the level of compliance for all standards for award of candidacy was met and there are no concerns at this time.

CAA publishes notice of its accreditation actions, including the basis for the decisions, for all final accreditation decisions resulting from a comprehensive review (applications for candidacy, initial accreditation, or re-accreditation) or that affect an accreditation status (e.g., accredited to accredited-on probation). Recent decisions can be accessed online at <http://caa.asha.org/programs/accreditation-decisions/>.

### **Level III: Program Improvement/Maintenance (Annual Progress Reports)**

The CAA requires annual progress report submissions in order to ensure that the candidate program has sufficient time to proceed in its development toward compliance with all accreditation standards and to submit its initial application for accreditation during the candidacy cycle. This provision allows programs to continue to develop as students matriculate in the graduate program and allows the program to offer a full rotation of classes and to implement its assessment strategies to support its self-study that will serve

**2200 Research Boulevard  
Mail Stop 310  
Rockville, MD 20850**

as the basis of its Application for Initial Accreditation to the CAA. The timing of the submission will allow review and decision on the Application for Initial Accreditation while the program still holds a preaccreditation status with the CAA.

The annual progress report documents maintenance of and continued development over the reporting cycle, and must be completed, signed and submitted by the annual reporting deadline consistent with the program's candidacy anniversary date (August 1<sup>st</sup>.) The [Standards Compliance Continuum](#) outlines the expected developmental levels for a program submitting its first, second, and third progress reports, and on which the CAA will render its decision to continue a program in candidacy.

The CAA will provide written notification to the program's director and the president of the institution, or the president's designee, of the results of the Annual Progress Report review, which will indicate one of the following actions:

**APPROVE:** The Accreditation Candidate provided a complete and comprehensive progress report with documentation sufficient to support its continued compliance with identified standards, as well as evidence of adequate support for continued development and progress toward expected compliance with standards at this stage. The program must respond to feedback resulting from the Council's review by addressing elements in its next report to the CAA. The program maintains its status as an Accreditation Candidate and is directed to submit the next annual progress report or an initial Application for Accreditation, if it has satisfactorily completed all requisite progress reports.

**DO NOT APPROVE (WITHDRAW CANDIDACY):** The Accreditation Candidate has not made sufficient progress towards expected compliance with accreditation standards and did not satisfy all of the criteria listed for this level of review and/or did not submit sufficient documentation to support expected compliance at this stage and support for continued development. A decision by the CAA to not approve a program's annual progress report will result in withdrawal of candidacy status from the program. A decision to withdraw candidacy status from a program is subject to appeal, and the program is advised of its option to seek further consideration of the CAA's decision.

Candidacy status may be held no longer than five years, at which time the program must demonstrate compliance with all accreditation standards. Master's programs in speech-language pathology must submit at least two (2), but no more than three (3), annual progress reports to the CAA before filing an initial application for accreditation. If the candidate program intends to pursue initial accreditation with the CAA, it must submit a completed application for accreditation no later than the timing of its fourth annual candidacy progress report. A master's programs in speech-language pathology may submit its application for initial accreditation in lieu of a third annual progress report. A program may submit its application for initial accreditation at the next regularly scheduled application submission date consistent with the program's candidacy anniversary date, after the third annual report has been submitted.

For additional information about the CAA Candidacy Program, and policies and procedures related to CAA's review of applications for accreditation, refer to the [Accreditation Handbook](#) (Chapter X – Eligibility and Program Development, Chapter XV Part C – Conditions to Maintain Candidacy Status).

**Public Notice of Accreditation Status:**

The CAA requires programs to disclose *accurate* information about their accreditation status, to include the specific degree program awarded candidacy or accreditation, along with the full name, address, and phone number of the accrediting agency:

Dr. Fang-Ling Lu  
University of Texas HSC San Antonio  
CAA #327 Award Candidacy  
August 22, 2017

**Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology**

American Speech-Language Hearing Association  
2200 Research Boulevard #310  
Rockville, MD 20850  
800-498-2071

Effective January 1, 2017 programs receiving candidacy status must use the following language in its entirety to publicize their accreditation status, as indicated in the [Accreditation Handbook](#) (Chapter XII – Informing the Public):

The [master/s doctoral (+degree designator)] program in [audiology and/or speech/language pathology] at [name of parent institution of higher education] is a Candidate for Accreditation by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. This is a “pre-accreditation” status with the CAA, awarded to developing or emerging programs for a maximum period of five years.

Notification of Changes:

When the CAA awards an accreditation status, including candidacy, it does so based on the expectation that the program will continue to comply with all accreditation standards over the term of accreditation status. 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 under the Public Notification section of the [Accreditation Handbook](#) (Chapter XII – Informing the Public).

Dr. Fang-Ling Lu  
University of Texas HSC San Antonio  
CAA #327 Award Candidacy  
August 22, 2017

The CAA commends the program for preparing a quality document and looks forward to working with you in the development of the master's program in speech-language pathology. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact me or Susan Flesher, Associate Director of Accreditation Services at [sflesher@asha.org](mailto:sflesher@asha.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annette Hurley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Annette Hurley, PhD, Chair  
Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology

cc: Jacqueline L. Mok, VP for Academic Student Faculty Affairs  
Susan Flesher, ASHA National Office  
CAA Members