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 substantive change plan during its February 27 – March 2, 2019 meeting and took the accreditation action indicated below.

Name of Program: Baylor University

File #: 62

Professional Area:
- [ ] Audiology
- X Speech-Language Pathology

Modality:
- X Residential
- X Distance Education
- [ ] Satellite Campus
- [ ] Contractual Arrangement

Degree Designator(s): M.S.

Current Accreditation Cycle: 6/1/2012 – 5/31/2020

Action Taken: Approve substantive change for distance education and continue accreditation

Effective Date: March 2, 2019

Next Review: Application for Reaccreditation due August 1, 2019

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 are no areas of non-compliance for 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 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.**

**Standard 1.9 - Public Information**

**Evidence of partial compliance:**

At a minimum, the following results of student outcome measures for the 3 most recently completed academic years must be provided:

- Number and percentage of students completing the program within the program’s published time frame for each of the 3 most recently completed academic years,
- Number and percentage of program test-takers who pass the Praxis® Subject Assessment examination for each of the 3 most recently completed academic years (programs need report only the results once for test-takers who take the test more than one time in the reporting period),
- Number and percentage of program graduates employed in the profession or pursuing further education in the profession within 1 year of graduation for each of the 3 most recently completed academic years.

Student outcome measures must be labeled “Student Achievement Data” or “Student Outcome Data”.

The program currently publishes on its website results of student outcome measures for the academic periods of 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17. However, these data do not represent the three most recently completed academic years as required by this standard. Furthermore, student outcome measures are labeled “Graduate Outcome Data.”
Steps to be Taken:
At the time of the next annual report, provide evidence that student outcome measures published on the program’s website represent the three most recently completed academic years and are labeled “Student Achievement Data” or “Student Outcome Data” as required by this standard.

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 1.6 - Program Authority and Responsibility

Evidence of concern:
The institution’s administrative structure must demonstrate that the program’s faculty is recognized as the body that can initiate, implement, and evaluate decisions affecting all aspects of the professional education program, including the curriculum. The program must demonstrate that the faculty has reasonable access to higher levels of administration.

The program reports that administrative components of the distance education (DE) online program will be integrated with those of the onsite program in the following ways: (1) the Chair of the department will meet biweekly with the DE program director, DE program administrator, and DE clinical director via teleconference to ensure that all DE components are consistent with the on-site program components. However, the DE program director, DE program administrator, and DE clinical director have not been hired.

Steps to be Taken:
At the time of the next annual report, provide an update on the hiring of the three positions for the distance education program and verify that administrative components of the DE online program have been integrated as outlined by the program.

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)(2)].

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.

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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.