



March 20, 2017

Dr. Rieko M. Darling  
Western Washington University  
Communication Sciences & Disorders  
AI 394 MS9171  
516 High St.  
Bellingham, WA 98225-9171

RE: CAA # 168 Western Washington U (AUD) – Award Candidacy

Dear Dr. Darling,

I am writing to inform you that during its February 15-18, 2015 meeting, the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) completed its review of the Level II Candidacy application for the clinical doctoral program in audiology (AuD) at Western Washington University. 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 February 1, 2017 – January 31, 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 February 1, 2018. At this time the CAA determined the program met the expected level of compliance Level II of the Candidacy process and has no outstanding concerns to be addressed in the next report to the CAA.

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)**

Once candidacy is awarded, programs are required to file Annual Progress Reports that document maintenance of and continued development over the past reporting cycle. The annual progress report

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Mail Stop 310  
Rockville, MD 20850

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form must be completed, signed and submitted by the annual reporting deadline consistent with the program's candidacy anniversary date (February 1<sup>st</sup>.) The [Standards Compliance Continuum](#) outlines accepted 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.

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 detailed information about the [CAA Candidacy Program](#) please visit the CAA webpages. For policies and procedures related to CAA's review of applications for accreditation, refer to the [CAA Accreditation Handbook](#).

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:

**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

Programs receiving Candidacy status must use the following language to indicate their accreditation status:

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

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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 Programs of the CAA Accreditation Handbook. Information also may be found on the CAA website at: <http://caa.asha.org/reporting/reporting-changes/>.

The CAA commends the program for preparing a quality document and looks forward to working with you in the development of the clinical doctoral program in audiology. 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 "Annette" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Hurley".

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

cc: Dr. Bruce Shepard  
Susan Flesher, ASHA National Office  
CAA Members