

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 took the accreditation action indicated below.

Name of Program: **Abilene Christian University**

File #: 268

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Satellite Campus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Contractual Arrangement |

Degree Designator(s): Master of Science

Current Accreditation Cycle: 9/1/2015 – 8/31/2023

Action Taken: **Approve to continue accreditation**
 Approve Substantive Change for satellite/branch campus

Effective Date: **April 12, 2017**

Next Review: **Annual Report due August 1, 2017**

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

As a result of its review of the annual report, the CAA 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 in the Prior Concerns section of the next annual report (or, if appropriate, within the context of the 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.

- 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, if appropriate, within the context of the 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.

2008 Standard: 1.7

2017 Standard: 1.9

Element of the standard to be met: Accuracy of public information

Evidence of Concern:

The program's accreditation statement (http://www.acu.edu/legacy/graduate/degree-programs/communication-science-disorders/?utm_source=acu.edu%2Fspeech-pathology%2F&utm_medium=redirect&utm_campaign=301-redirect) is missing the degree designator.

Steps to be Taken:

Effective immediately, update the accreditation statement published on the program's website to include all required elements, as described in Chapter XII.C of the [Accreditation Handbook](#):

The [master's/doctoral (+ degree designator)] education program in [audiology and/or speech-language pathology] at [name of parent institution of higher education] is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard, #310, Rockville, MD 20850, 800-498-2071 or 301-296-5700.

AREAS FOR FOLLOW-UP (clarification/verification)

The program should provide an update in the next annual report (or, if appropriate, in the context of the reaccreditation application) 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 program’s next report, in order to monitor the program’s continued compliance in the stated areas.

2008 Standard: 2.2

2017 Standard: 2.2

Element of the standard to be met: Faculty sufficiency/branch campus

Evidence of Concern:

The program is in the process of establishing a branch campus for a graduate program in speech-language pathology and indicated that searches are underway for two doctoral-level research faculty and one master-level clinical coordinator.

Steps to be Taken:

At the time of the next annual report, provide an update as to the status of these searches. Indicate the areas of expertise for each hired faculty member as well as plans for one reported doctoral-level faculty search during the 2018-19 academic year.

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

Findings:

<i>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 <u>not</u> in compliance are described earlier in this report in the context of the relevant standard.</i>	
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.