ACCREDITATION ACTION REPORT

Accreditation Review

The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology took the following accreditation action at its February 27 – March 2, 2019 meeting, as indicated below.

Name of Program: Iona College

File #: 301

Professional Area:

- [ ] Audiology
- [x] Speech-Language Pathology

Modality:

- [x] Residential
- [ ] Distance Education
- [ ] Satellite Campus
- [ ] Contractual Arrangement

Degree Designator(s): M.A.

Current Accreditation Cycle: 11/01/2013 - 10/31/2018

Action Taken: Award Accreditation

Effective Date: March 2, 2019

New Accreditation Cycle: 11/1/2018 – 10/31/2023

Next Review: Annual Report due February 1, 2020

Notices: The program is advised to adhere to the following notices that are appended to this report.

- PROGRAM COMPLIANCE EXPECTATIONS
- PUBLIC DISCLAIMER 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 were 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 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 3.8B – Clinical Education-Client Welfare**

**Evidence of partial compliance:**

The program must demonstrate that the procedures used in clinical education ensure that the welfare of each person being served by the student and clinical educator team is protected.

It was noted during the site visit that the program was employing inappropriate disinfection procedures of clinical materials. The program reports that steps were taken in February 2019 to address some of the concerns. Furthermore, on-line modules related to Injury and Illness
Prevention, Bloodborne Pathogens, and Hazard Communications are to be completed by March 15, 2019 by all students and staff.

Steps to be Taken:

In the next annual report, provide an update on completion of all steps to address inappropriate infection control procedures that demonstrate compliance with 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 4.6 – Student Advising

Evidence of concern:

The program must maintain records demonstrating that students are advised on a timely and continuing basis regarding their academic and clinical progress.

The program described its advising process and indicated that an audit of student records was conducted in November/December 2018. In addition, the program described a plan to use CALIPSO to track clinical hours beginning fall 2019.

Steps to be Taken:

In the next annual report, describe how the program ensures students are advised on a timely and continuing basis regarding their academic and clinical progress and that student records include evidence of such advising.

Standard 4.7 – Student Progress Documentation

Evidence of concern:

The program must maintain complete and accurate records of all student’s progress during the entire time of their matriculating in the program. The records for each student must include documentation that can demonstrate that the student has met all the academic, clinical, and other requirements for the degree and the credentials(s) that are identified by the program in its mission and goals.

At the time of the site visit, student records were found not to include complete documentation that the student has met all requirements for the degree and credentials as identified in the
program mission and goals. In response, the program described the advising process and indicated that they conducted an audit of current student records between November and December 2018.

**Steps to be Taken:**

In the next annual report, provide an update on the process implemented to ensure all student records include evidence of their progress throughout the entire time of their matriculating in the program and that all students have met all the academic, clinical, and other requirements for the degree and the credentials(s) that are identified by the program in its mission and goals.

**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 US Secretary of Education [34 CFR 602.17(f)(2)].

**Comments/Observations:**

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<th>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.</th>
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<td>x Praxis Examination Rates</td>
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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.
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.