ACCREDITATION ACTION REPORT

Candidacy Application

The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology took the following accreditation action at its July 17-20, 2019 meeting, as indicated below.

Name of Program: Thiel College

File #: 333

Professional Area:

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

Modality:

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

Degree Designator(s): M.S.

Action Taken: Award Candidacy

Effective Date: July 20, 2019

Candidacy Accreditation Cycle: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2019

Next Review: Annual Candidacy Progress Report due August 1, 2020

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
The CAA conducted its comprehensive review in the context of the institutional and program mission statements and in consideration of the credentials for which the program is preparing students, and determined that the program demonstrated sufficient compliance with the Standards for Accreditation of Graduate Education Programs in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, except as noted below.

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<th>Standard 2.3 All faculty members (full-time, part-time, adjuncts), including all individuals providing clinical education, are qualified and competent by virtue of their education, experience, and professional credentials to provide academic and clinical education as assigned by the program leadership.</th>
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<td>Requirement(s) of the Standard to be met:</td>
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<td>• The program must demonstrate that the majority of academic content is taught by doctoral faculty who hold the appropriate terminal academic degree (PhD, EdD).</td>
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<td>Compliance Expectation Determined: Initiated</td>
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<td>Compliance Expectation for Award of Candidacy Status: Initiated</td>
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<td>Concern: The number and classification of faculty is not totally clear to all reviewers. The program provided an updated hiring plan in its response to the site visit report, along with a letter of support from Vice President for Academic Affairs Frombgen. These materials indicated that two positions (master’s level Clinic Director and the doctoral-level tenure-track faculty position) have been approved and searches will begin between August and November 2019 (pending award of candidacy status). Start dates for both positions will be either January or April 2020 in advance of the initial cohort of graduate students in Summer 2020. In addition, release time from teaching load will be provided for administrative duties, mentoring, clinical supervision, and research.</td>
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<td>Steps to be taken: At the time of the first annual progress report, the program must clarify the status and classification of all faculty and staff, including those intended to be hired, and provide updated assignments for academic courses to ensure this standard requirement is being met.</td>
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PERFORMANCE WITH RESPECT TO STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The CAA 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)].

Upon award of candidacy status, no students are enrolled in the program; thus student achievement data has not been collected. However, the CAA assessed the program’s process for collecting and reporting student achievement data and found the program to meet or exceed the
established CAA expectations as described in the Candidacy Compliance Continuum for accreditation Standard 5.0 – Assessment.

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.