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: Xavier University of Louisiana

File #: 337

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, 2014

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.

**Standard 6.1** The institution provides adequate financial support to the program so that it can achieve its stated mission and goals.

*Requirement(s) of the Standard to be met:*
- The program must demonstrate that there is sufficient support, consistent with the program mission and goals, for personnel, equipment, educational and clinical materials, and research activities.

*Compliance Expectation Determined: Initiated*  
*Compliance Expectation for Award of Candidacy Status: Initiated*  

*Concern:* At the time of the site visit, there was no line item for capital equipment (more than $5,000.00) to cover teaching/clinical/research equipment such as a swallow station and/or stroboscopy unit. The provost assured the team that needed equipment for teaching, clinic, and scholarship would be available for new tenure-track faculty hires. In response to the site visit report, the program reported that some additional equipment (video observation equipment, swallow station, updated assessment instruments, etc.) had already been acquired and provided an extensive list of assessments and materials to be purchased. The program has hired a permanent program director, one additional faculty member, and has made an offer to a second new faculty member. Presumably these new faculty members will have additional equipment needs.

*Steps to be taken:* In the first annual progress report, the program should provide the list of materials, including equipment needed, by new hires, and describe how the program has fulfilled these requests.

**Standard 6.3** The program has adequate physical facilities (classrooms, offices, clinical space, research laboratories) that are accessible, appropriate, safe, and sufficient to achieve the program's mission and goals.

*Requirement(s) of the Standard to be met:*
- The program must demonstrate that its facilities are adequate to deliver a program that is consistent with its mission and goals.
- The program must demonstrate that the facility has been evaluated and that the program includes access and accommodations for the needs of individuals with disabilities, in accordance with federal regulations.

*Compliance Expectation Determined: Initiated*  
*Compliance Expectation for Award of Candidacy Status: Initiated*
**Concern:** The site visit team reported several facilities issues:

1) neither of the two available remodeling plans have space/water for disinfection of clinic materials, toys, or scopes/clinical equipment; 
2) there is no space allocated for a waiting area to accommodate increased clinic traffic; 
3) HIPAA and FERPA-protected records are currently stored in a public space; 
4) there is no office space currently planned for the anticipated 2020-21 clinical faculty hire or for any necessary adjunct clinical supervisors; 
5) there is no dedicated research space; and 
6) there is no restroom stall on the 5th floor that can accommodate a wheelchair, although there is one accessible stall in each of the men’s and women’s restrooms on the 1st floor, but those are isolated and lack a door switch.

The program’s response to the site visit report included a revised floor plan and descriptions addressing the instructional/clinical space concerns and also reported on planned renovations to the 1st floor restrooms that include wheelchair access and door switches.

**Steps to be taken:** In the first annual progress report, provide an update on the planned renovations to address these concerns.

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**Standard 6.4 The program's equipment and educational and clinical materials are appropriate and sufficient to achieve the program's mission and goals.**

**Requirement(s) of the Standard to be met:**

- The program must demonstrate that the quantity, quality, currency, and accessibility of materials and equipment are sufficient to meet the mission and goals of the program.

**Compliance Expectation Determined: Initiated**
**Compliance Expectation for Award of Candidacy Status: Initiated**

**Concern:** The program provided the site visitors with a list of assessments and materials planned to be ordered, but these items have not yet been purchased. The provost assured the site visitors that funds are available to purchase needed materials and equipment.

**Steps to be taken:** In the first annual progress report, the program should provide an update on its progress in acquiring the assessments, equipment and materials on its planned purchase list.
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.