

August 13, 2021

Dr. Patricia J. Seymour
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Dept Communication Disorders and Sciences
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CAA File #112

Master's program in speech-language pathology, residential and distance education

Dear Dr. Seymour,

I am pleased to inform you that during its meeting on July 21-24, 2021, the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) voted to continue accreditation for the graduate education program in speech-language pathology at California State University, Northridge for a period of 8 years beginning April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2029. This includes the distance education component. 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/>.

The issues related to standards compliance provided in the attached *Accreditation Action Report* must be addressed in the program's next CAA report. At the time of the next report, the program must address the 2017 Accreditation Standards that went into effect August 1, 2017. The CAA expects that the program will demonstrate full compliance with the standards cited by the time of the next CAA report, if any citations were noted. If there is not sufficient evidence of full compliance by that date, the program's accreditation may be in jeopardy with the CAA, in keeping with the U.S. Department of Education's Criteria for Recognition [§602.20 Enforcement of Standards](#).

The program's first annual report will be submitted on February 1, 2022 using the on-line reporting system. Four months prior to the due date of the program's next CAA report, the program director will be sent an email notification indicating the timeline for completing this report.

The CAA considers timely submission of all accreditation reports and fees a critical condition for continued accredited status. Thus, a program will be placed on administrative probation as described in the [Accreditation Handbook](#) (Chapter XI Expectations of Programs, D. Administrative Probation) when it has not met its reporting and/or financial expectations to the

CAA. Administrative Probation is an action taken by the CAA as a result of failure, by established deadlines, to complete and file any accreditation report, including all special requests for information or to pay annual accreditation fees.

Follow-Up Site Visit

To reach its decision, the CAA considered the report of the site visit that was conducted as a full-team virtual site visit, in addition to the program's application materials and responses to both the CAA's initial observations and the site visit report. The U.S. Department of Education (USDE) requires accrediting agencies to conduct on-campus visits as part of their accreditation reviews of programs. The CAA has a temporary policy in place in accordance with the guidance issued on March 17, 2020 by the USDE, allowing accrediting agencies to conduct virtual site visits as a result of the restrictions put in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under this guidance, the CAA must conduct a follow-up, in-person visit to the campus within a reasonable period of time following the virtual site visit; however, due to the continued travel and campus restrictions, the CAA has not yet determined the time frame to visit your campus. The CAA established parameters for the follow-up site visits, which are outlined in Chapter XIX Site Visit Planning and Conduct of the [Accreditation Handbook](#). The CAA will contact the program to schedule the follow-up site visit when it is safe to proceed.

Public Notice of Accreditation Status:

Effective January 1, 2017, a program must publish on its website the applicable accreditation statement in its entirety as articulated in the Public Notice of Accreditation Status policy; refer to the CAA [Accreditation Handbook](#) (Chapter XII Informing the Public) for the appropriate language to use in publicizing your program's accreditation status.

The CAA has clarified that both the degree title and degree designator (abbreviation) must be included in the program's accreditation status statements. For example, the lead in language for the accreditation status statement published by the program should begin, "The Master of Science (M.S.) education program" or "The Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) education program". Programs would use the title and designator affiliated with their program. Refer to the CAA [Accreditation Handbook](#) (Chapter XII Informing the Public) for the appropriate language to use in publicizing your program's accreditation status.

Notification of Changes:

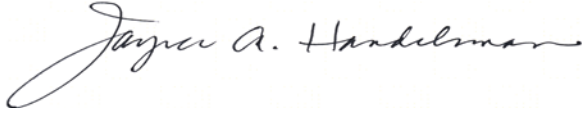
When the CAA awards an accreditation status, it does so based on the expectation that the program will continue to comply with all accreditation standards over the term of accreditation. On occasion, changes occur prior to the next regularly scheduled CAA report and require immediate notification to the CAA. These include:

1. Changes in institutional accreditation status
2. Program director changes
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](#).

Congratulations to you, the faculty, and staff in the program, as well as the administration, on this national distinction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jaynee A. Handelsman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Jayne A. Handelsman, Chair

Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology

cc: Dr. Farrell J. Webb, Dean, College of Health and Human Development
Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology
Program file