

**Council on Academic Accreditation
in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology**

**ACCREDITATION ACTION REPORT
Reaccreditation (or Initial Accreditation) Review**

The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology took the following accreditation action at its July 18-21, 2012 meeting, as indicated below.

Name of Program: University of Vermont

File #: 117

Professional Area:

Audiology
Speech-Language Pathology

Residential Program
Distance Education
Satellite Campus
Contractual Arrangement

Degree Designator(s): M.S.

Current Accreditation Cycle: 8/2004 – 7/2012

Action Taken: Re-Accredit for 8 years

Effective Date: July 21, 2012

New Accreditation Cycle: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2020

Next Review: Annual Report due August 1, 2013

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 comprehensive review, 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 should demonstrate its compliance with these standards in the Prior Concerns section of the next Annual Report 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.

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 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 partial compliance.

AREAS FOR FOLLOW-UP (clarification/verification)

The program should provide an update in the next Annual Report 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 next Annual Report in order to monitor the program's continued compliance in the stated areas.

Standards: 2.2, 6.1

Evidence of Concern:

In the program's response to the initial observations and in documented discussions with the Dean, Provost and Department Chair, it was reported that the distance program has been suspended and will not be continued without a business plan that will include additional support for the distance education program including additional faculty and staff. The response to the site visit report noted that the program will not be enrolling students in the 2012-2013 academic year and that it is currently in discussion with the School of Continuing Education about continuing the distance education master's program through the University.

Steps to be Taken:

In the next annual report, please update the CAA on the status of the program's distance education master's program.

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)].

PERFORMANCE WITH RESPECT TO STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Comments/Observations:

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.

x	Program Completion Rates
x	Employment Rates
x	Praxis Examination Rates

PROGRAM COMPLIANCE EXPECTATIONS

CAA's recognition by the United States Secretary of Education requires that, if an accrediting agency's review of a program under any standard indicates that the program is not in compliance with that standard, the agency must require the program to take appropriate action to bring itself into compliance with the agency's standards within a time period that must not exceed two years. [34 CFR 602.20(a)(2)(iii)] If, after review of a required report, the program remains out of compliance with any standard and sufficient progress toward compliance has not been demonstrated, CAA may act to place the program on probation in accordance with the policy and procedures outlined in the Accreditation Manual on the academic accreditation Web site. If the program does not bring itself into compliance within the specified period, the accrediting agency must take immediate adverse action. If the program continues to remain out of compliance with any standard at the end of the specified period, CAA will withdraw accreditation, unless the CAA judges the program to be making a good faith effort to come into compliance with the standards. In such case, the CAA may, for good cause, extend the period for achieving compliance for no longer than one additional year, and may decide to continue the accreditation cycle and to monitor the program's progress. CAA defines a "good faith effort" as 1) an appropriate plan for achieving compliance within a reasonable time frame, 2) a detailed timeline for completion of the plan, 3) evidence that the plan has been implemented according to the established timeline, and 4) reasonable assurance that the program can and will achieve compliance as stated in the plan.

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THIS DECISION AND ACCREDITATION STATUS

The CAA publishes a notice of final accreditation actions on its Web site 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 an accreditation status of a program and the comments, if any, that the affected program may wish to make.

The US Department of Education (USDE) requires all recognized accrediting agencies to provide for the public correction of incorrect or misleading information an accredited or preaccredited institution or program releases about accreditation or preaccreditation status, contents of site visit reports, and accrediting or preaccrediting actions with respect to the institution or 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 suggested language provided in the Accreditation Manual on the academic accreditation Web site. If the program chooses to disclose any additional information within the scope of the USDE 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 Manual. If a 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 notify the chief executive officer of the institution and the program director, informing them 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. If the Accreditation unit discovers that a program has released incorrect or misleading information within the scope of the USDE rule, then it, acting on behalf of CAA, will make public correction, and it reserves the right to disclose this Accreditation Action Report in its entirety for that purpose.