



## **CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT**

August 17, 2015

Dr. Liat Seiger-Gardner  
CUNY, Lehman College  
Speech-Language-Hearing Science  
250 Bedford Park Blvd. West  
Bronx, NY 10468

CAA File #152

Master's program in speech-language pathology, Residential

Dear Dr. Seiger-Gardner,

I am pleased to inform you that during its meeting on July 15-18, 2015 the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) voted to re-accredit the graduate education program in speech-language pathology at CUNY, Lehman College for a period of 8 years beginning September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2023. 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://www.asha.org/Academic/accreditation/caaDecisions/>.

The issues related to standards compliance provided in the attached *Accreditation Action Report* must be addressed in the program's next CAA report. The CAA expects that the program will demonstrate full compliance with the standards cited by the time of the next CAA report. If there is not sufficient evidence of full compliance by that date, the program's accreditation may be in jeopardy, in keeping with the US Department of Education's criteria for CAA's recognition:

*(b) if the institution or program does not bring itself into compliance within the specified period, the agency must take immediate adverse action unless the agency, for good cause, extends the period for achieving compliance.*

The program's first annual report will be submitted using an on-line format via the Higher Education System on August 1, 2016. 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.D. Expectation of Programs – 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 pay annual accreditation fees.

Public Notice of Accreditation Status:

The CAA requires programs to disclose *accurate* information about their accreditation status, to include the specific degree program awarded candidacy or accreditation, along with the full name, address, and phone number of the accrediting agency:

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

American Speech-Language Hearing Association

2200 Research Boulevard #310

Rockville, MD 20850

800-498-2071

Refer to Chapter XII.A of the CAA [Accreditation Handbook](#) (Chapter XII.A. 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 under the Public Notification section of the CAA Accreditation Manual and may be found on the CAA web site at:

<http://www.asha.org/academic/accreditation/accredmanual/section2c.htm>.

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

Sincerely,



Sue T. Hale, MCD, CCC-SLP, Chair

Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology

cc: Dr. Ricardo R. Fernandez, President  
Susan Flesher, Associate Director, Accreditation Services  
CAA Members



## **ACCREDITATION ACTION REPORT Re-accreditation (or Initial Accreditation) Review**

The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology took the following accreditation action at its July 15-18, 2015 meeting, as indicated below.

**Name of Program: CUNY, Lehman College**

**File #: 152**

**Professional Area:**

- |                                     |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <b>Audiology</b>                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <b>Speech-Language Pathology</b> |

**Modality:**

- |                                     |                                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <b>Residential</b>             |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <b>Distance Education</b>      |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <b>Satellite Campus</b>        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <b>Contractual Arrangement</b> |

**Degree Designator(s): MA**

**Current Accreditation Cycle: 09/01/2007 - 08/31/2015**

**Action Taken: Reaccredit**

**Effective Date: 7/18/2015**

**New Accreditation Cycle: 09/01/2015 - 08/31/2023**

**Next Review: Annual Report due August 1, 2016**

**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



*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 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.

### **Standard: 1.2**

*Element(s) of the standard to be met:* College Mission Statement

#### **Evidence of Non-Compliance:**

As a newly designated college in which the program is housed, The College of Health Sciences, Human Services and Nursing currently does not have a mission statement although one is in development.

#### **Steps to be Taken:**

At the time of the next annual report, provide the College's mission statement.

## **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.

### **Standard: 4.2**

*Element(s) of the standard to be met:* Proficiency in English/other languages

#### **Evidence of Partial Compliance:**

The program currently does not have a written policy regarding proficiency in English and/or other languages of service delivery. However, a policy is currently being developed by an ad hoc committee appointed by the department.



**Steps to be Taken:**

At the time of the next annual report, provide the program’s written policy regarding proficiency in English and/or other languages of service delivery and all other performance expectations and explain how the policy is applied consistently.

**Standard: 6.4**

Element(s) of the standard to be met: Sufficiency of support/technical staff

**Evidence of Partial Compliance:**

Clerical staff is inadequate to meet the program’s mission and goals. The Dean anticipates the allocation of funds to appoint an individual who is bilingual with current technological skills to provide effective clerical services.

**Steps to be Taken:**

At the time of the next annual report, provide an update on the program’s plan to hire an individual who is bilingual and who possesses the technological skills to provide effective clerical services at the Speech and Hearing Center at Lehman College.

**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.

**There are no areas for follow-up with accreditation standards.**

*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 Handbook](#) 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 the accreditation status of a program, together with 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 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 suggested language provided in the [Accreditation Handbook](#) (see Chapter XII Informing the Public) 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 Handbook](#). 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.



Date: 28 May 2015  
To: Sue Flesher, Associate Director of Accreditation Services  
Re: CUNY, Lehman College (CAA #152) – CAA Response to CAA Site Visit Report

***Standard 1.2 - The program's mission and goals are consistent with CAA standards for entry into professional practice and with the mission of the institution.***

The site visitors were able to observe partial evidence to support verification of this standard due to the fact that The School of Health Sciences, Human Services and Nursing does not currently have a mission statement in place due to the recent formation of the school along with a newly appointed Dean.

The Dean has expressed his commitment to transparency, consensus, and shared governance in the process of developing the mission statement for the newly formed School of Health Sciences, Human Services, and Nursing. The Executive Committee (consisting of department chairs in the School) has been charged by the Dean to lead the School in the development of its mission statement. The initial draft will be presented to the faculty of each department in the School for discussion and feedback. It is anticipated that a final version of the new School's mission statement will be drafted no later than October 1, 2015 and will be presented to the Provost and the President for final approval.

***Standard 3.5B – Clinical supervision is commensurate with the clinical knowledge and skills of each student and clinical procedures ensure that the welfare of each person served by students is protected, in accord with recognized standards of ethical practice and relevant federal and state regulations.***

The site visitors expressed a concern that, currently, a faculty member is assigned the full responsibility of coordinating affiliation agreements, visiting sites, and managing student placements in off campus externship sites. The site visitors noted that the lack of a designated faculty position to support this role is a limitation of the program.

The Department Chair has consulted with the Dean of the School regarding the need for a full-time, Assistant Clinic Director position to meet the expectations of the clinical externship program. The Dean has expressed his full support for this position and views it as essential to maintaining the quality of students' clinical education in the MA program in Speech-Language Pathology. The College has recently undergone a process of prioritization of all administrative and academic programs that is nearing completion and after which decisions regarding allocation of resources will be made. The Dean anticipates that this will occur within the next few months and he will obtain approval for this position on or before August 1, 2015.

***Standard 4.2 – The program makes reasonable adaptations in curriculum, policies, and procedures to accommodate differences among individual students.***

The site visitors were able to observe partial evidence to support verification of this standard due to the fact that the program does not maintain a policy regarding student proficiency in English and/or other languages of service delivery and all other performance expectations.

While there is no written policy in place, English proficiency at the graduate level is verified regularly via the following mechanisms:

- (1) Admissions office – International students are required to pass the TOFEL exam.

- (2) Application/Admission procedures to the Speech-Language Pathology Graduate Program require:
- a. Applicants to have a letter grade of B or above in English writing/composition course.
  - b. Applicants to have a GRE writing score of 3.5 or above.
  - c. Prior to admission, applicants are invited for an interview during which they demonstrate English oral skills adequate for treating English-speaking clients.

In addition, the Department curriculum committee put forth a proposal for a new course entitled: Voice and Articulation of American English, designed for intermediate and advanced nonnative speakers of English as well as native English speakers who want to improve their speaking skills or who require special competence in speaking. The course should be approved by Spring 2016 and is expected to be offered to students in Summer 2016.

The Department acknowledges the need for a written policy that will address student-clinicians' proficiency in the language in which the service is being delivered. The Department has established an ad hoc committee to draft a written policy on or before August 1, 2015.

***Standard 6.4 – The program has access to clerical and technical staff, support services, and library and technology resources that are appropriate and sufficient to achieve the program's mission and goals.***

The site visitors were able to observe partial evidence to support verification of this standard due to inadequate clerical clinical staff that lacks the technological skills, knowledge and expertise in medical coding and proficiency in Spanish to support delivery of clinical service.

The Dean has expressed his commitment to strengthening the clerical support in the Speech and Hearing Center. Once the *Prioritization* process has been completed, the Dean anticipates the allocation of funds to appoint a bilingual (Spanish-English) individual with current technological skills to provide effective clinical services at the Speech and Hearing Center at Lehman College.

The Department would like to thank the site visitors for their thorough review.

Sincerely,

*Liat Seiger-Gardner*

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