March 29, 2022

Dear CDIS Stakeholders,

I am reaching out to you to share a recent change to our accreditation status. Each year we submit an annual accreditation report to the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) of Audiology and Speech Language Pathology. This year, our program was flagged for a minor language error in the accreditation statement on our department website. We missed including the degree designation (M.S.) in our accreditation statement. Due to this minor language error (missing the degree designation "M.S."), our program has been put under probation. Please see the statement that we are now required to publish our webpage.

***The Master of Science (M.S.) education program in speech-language pathology (residential) at Oklahoma State University has been placed on probation has been placed on probation by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard, #310, Rockville, MD 20850, 800-498-2071 or 301-296-5700. A program on probation is not currently in full compliance with the accreditation standards. Programs on probation remain accredited but must demonstrate compliance with the standards within one year.***

The minor language error [missing the degree designation in parenthesis (M.S.)] was considered to indicate not being in compliance with the following:

Standard 1.9 The program must publish to the general public on its website the program’s CAA accreditation status, in accordance with the language specified in the Public Notice of Accreditation Status in the CAA Accreditation Handbook, as required under federal regulations. This must be displayed in a clearly visible and readily accessible location. Additional references to the program’s accreditation status must be accurate but need not include all components of the accreditation statement.

Although this may seem a minor oversight, the CAA of the ASHA wants us to use the exact language published in the accreditation handbook. I **would like to emphasize that the reason for the probation is not because of a substantive shortcoming in our program but because of missing an abbreviation (M.S.) in the accreditation statement**. Our program continues to offer the best possible graduate education in the region, and we will look forward ways to strengthen our program

***Actions Taken Since Receiving the Decision Letter:***

1. We received the decision letter on Monday (March 21st, 2022; 11:15 am).

2. We corrected our accreditation statement on the department website, as suggested in the decision letter on that same day (March 21st, 2022; 1:45 pm).

3. We then sent an email to the concerned officials at CAA saying we have made the corrections (March 21st, 2022; 2 pm).

4. We received a reply from CAA Accreditation Officer (Mr. Allen Read on Friday, March 25th 2022; 9:52 am) that the change in the accreditation statement was appropriate and the current statement now met the requirements for CAA. (Please see attached the email correspondence for more details.)

5. Dr. Ramesh Kaipa (Department Head) and I met with the CAA Accreditation Team for a voluntary consultation call on Monday (March 28th) to confirm that the changes now met the CAA expectations.

6. We are required to notify all of our current students about the change in status within seven business days of receiving the decision letter. Therefore, I am sharing all of these details with you.

I have attached some screenshots of the e-mail communications we had the with CAA staff and as you can see, we were advised that we have remediated the deficiency.

Please note that **our program is still accredited**, and all current graduate students will be considered to be completing the program from an accredited program. I also want to emphasize that **this should not affect students’ graduation or employment opportunities**.

We will be submitting an end of probation report before April 8th, 2022 discussing all the details of the steps that we have taken since receiving the decision letter. The earliest that CAA will make a decision about our response is during their next meeting on May 19th, 2022. We are optimistic that we have already resolved the concern discussed in the decision letter and would be able to remove the probationary status from our program at the next CAA meeting.

We take this decision very seriously and are doing our best to resolve this issue as soon as possible. Any questions about the graduate (M.S.) program in speech-language pathology at Oklahoma State University can be directed to Dr. Sabiha Parveen, Program Director (E-mail: sabiha.parveen@okstate.edu; Phone: 405-744-5116). Individuals having questions about the accreditation status of the graduate (M.S.) program can also contact the CAA. The contact details are provided below.

***Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard, #310, Rockville, MD 20850, 800-498-2071 or 301-296-5700***

Sincerely,

Sabiha Parveen, Ph.D.
Graduate Program Director
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders