



July 27, 2007

Celia Hooper, PhD, CCC-SLP
CAPCSD President
Interim Dean, School of Health and Human Performance
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
PO Box 26170
Greensboro, NC 27402-6170

Dear Celia,

The Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) carefully reviewed during the course of several meetings the “accreditation white paper” that emerged from the facilitated meetings convened by the CAPCSD in 2005 and 2006 to discuss critical issues related to academic accreditation in audiology. The CAA has determined that it is in the best interest of graduate education programs and their students to maintain the CAA as the single accreditor for clinical doctoral programs in audiology and master’s programs in speech-language pathology.

In the course of this review, the CAA concluded that the guiding principles for accreditation programs that were identified by the participants during the facilitated meetings are consistent with the CAA’s own principles of accreditation under which it has always operated. The CAA is confident that its current accreditation system continues to satisfy these principles and, therefore, reaffirmed its commitment to their adherence. The CAA is guided in all of its activities by its mission, which is to promote excellence in graduate education in the discipline of communication sciences and disorders for the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology through a peer review process of establishing and promulgating accreditation standards that encourage continuous quality improvement.

CAA recognizes and supports the belief that audiology and speech-language pathology are separate but related professions that share the scientific principles of human communication and often share academic and administrative functions in professional preparation programs. Therefore, certain accreditation standards, principles, and processes may reasonably be applied to professional degree programs in both audiology and speech-language pathology. Because the CAA recognizes these as separate professions with different sets of expected knowledge and skills, the 2008 accreditation standards address the academic preparation for audiology and speech-language pathology separately.

The CAA regards CAPCSD as an important partner and a critical stakeholder and looks forward to future collaborations that will result in mutual benefits for the discipline of communication sciences and disorders and the programs that prepare individuals for entry into the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Mary Anne Hanner'.

Mary Anne Hanner, PhD, CCC-SLP
Chair, Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology

cc: CAA Members