

ACAIE Accreditation in the COVID-19 Era **April 21, 2020**

The Accreditation Commission for Audiology Education (ACAIE) recognizes that the COVID-19 crisis has a significant impact on all facets of audiology education. Academic programs face considerable administrative challenges, faculty have had to quickly transition in-classroom and laboratory instruction online to finish academic terms, clinical instructors and preceptors are exploring new strategies and paradigms for clinical education of students amidst severely restricted campus access and audiology clinic closures. And, Doctor of Audiology students are currently grappling with last minute changes in their academic program while facing uncertainty about graduation and launching their new career. Every AuD program is obligated to make major adjustments to normal operations. We applaud and support efforts within universities and academic programs to transition quickly to effective new methods and platforms to permit ongoing didactic and clinical education of AuD students without sacrificing educational quality or program integrity.

The purpose of ACAIE standards is to ensure the academic quality and continuous improvement of audiology education, reflecting the evolving practice of audiology. ACAIE standards require AuD programs to use a system of competency-based assessments (outcome measures) to quantify student proficiency in stated areas related to evaluation, diagnosis, treatment and management within audiology's scope of practice. The competency framework of these standards affords flexibility in curriculum design and competency assessment. As classroom and clinical education and learning is adapted to the COVID-19 environment, the ACAIE stands ready to collaborate with AuD programs to embrace innovation and to support compliance with accreditation standards as we navigate together through this crisis. The ACAIE recognizes that this is a fluid situation for audiology education likely requiring further changes beyond the short-term for sustained support of students as they progress through the program.

The ACAIE is requesting a brief update from programs at this time to help us understand your current and planned modifications to didactic and clinical instruction relative to the ACAIE accreditation standards. To minimize your time and effort in responding, the ACAIE has developed a brief survey for reporting programmatic changes. Please use [this link](#) to access and complete the program survey **on or before May 25**. You may submit additional supporting documents. Feel free to contact Andrew Stafford (astafford@audiology.org) with any questions or concerns. The ACAIE will provide ACAIE-accredited programs a report of the data collected including a summary of strategies and technologies that ACAIE-accredited programs are utilizing to maintain high quality classroom and education learning for their Doctor of Audiology students.