E. Public Comment

The CAA is a nationally recognized accrediting agency. As part of the CAA’s recognition by the U.S. Department of Education (ED), the agency is encouraged to develop a method for allowing public input about the accreditation process and about graduate education programs prior to final decision by the CAA. Accordingly, individuals who wish to provide input about a program seeking candidacy (preaccreditation) or initial CAA accreditation or about a CAA-accredited program seeking reaccreditation may do so in two ways: (1) submitting written comments prior to the accreditation site visit in accordance with the procedures specified below or (2) attending and providing comments at a public meeting during the program’s scheduled site visit.

All comments provided must:

- relate to a program’s compliance with the published Standards for Accreditation of Graduate Education Programs in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (Standards) in effect at the time comments are submitted, and
- identify the specific program seeking candidacy, initial accreditation, or reaccreditation with the CAA.

Comments not meeting these requirements will not be considered, and the individual or group commenting will be so notified.

Comments Submitted Prior to the Site Visit

The CAA publishes on the ASHA website the list of programs that have submitted applications for candidacy, initial accreditation, and reaccreditation during that calendar year for which the CAA is seeking public comment as part of its current accreditation review of the published programs. The listing will include the dates of the scheduled site visit for each program.

Individuals who wish to submit written testimony about any of the programs scheduled for a site visit must adhere to the following procedures.

- All comments about education programs are due in the Accreditation Office no later than 15 days before the first day of the scheduled site visit. Comments received after this time will not be forwarded to the site visit team for consideration during the accreditation review.
- All written testimony—including comments faxed or submitted as e-mail attachments—must include the commenter’s name, address and telephone contact information and the commenter’s relationship to the program in order for Accreditation staff to verify the source of the testimony. All comments must be signed.

Comments should be submitted to:

Accreditation Public Comment
Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA)
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
2200 Research Boulevard, #310
Rockville, MD 20850
accreditation@asha.org
Fax: 301-296-8570

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7 Initial implementation date of the Policy on Public Comment: January 1, 2002; effective date of revisions: July 1, 2005 for all programs anticipating a site visit after that date.