

XIII. COMPLAINTS

A. Complaints Against Graduate Education Programs

A complaint about any accredited program or program in candidacy status may be submitted by any individual(s).

Criteria for Complaints

Complaints about programs must meet all of the following criteria:

- a. be against an accredited graduate education program or program in candidacy status in audiology or speech-language pathology;
- b. relate to the Standards for Accreditation of Entry-Level Graduate Education Programs in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology [PDF], including the relationship of the complaint to the accreditation standards;
- c. be clearly described, including the specific nature of the charge and the data to support the charge;
- d. be within the timelines specified below:
 - if the complaint is being filed by a graduate or former student, or a former faculty or staff member, the complaint must be filed within one year of separation* from the program, even if the conduct occurred more than 4 years prior to the date of filing the complaint;
 - if the complaint is being filed by a current student or faculty member, the complaint must be filed as soon as possible, but no longer than 4 years after the date the conduct occurred;
 - if the complaint is being filed by other complainants, the conduct must have occurred at least in part within 4 years prior to the date the complaint is filed.

**Note: For graduates, former students, or former faculty or staff filing a complaint, the date of separation should be the date on which the individual was no longer considered a student in or employee of the graduate program (i.e., graduation, resignation, official notice of withdrawal or termination), and after any institutional grievance or other review processes have been concluded.*

Complaints also must meet the following submission requirements:

- a. include verification, if the complaint is from a student or faculty/instructional staff member, that the complainant exhausted all pertinent institutional grievance and review mechanisms before submitting a complaint to the CAA;
- b. include the complainant's name, address, and telephone contact information and the complainant's relationship to the program in order for the Accreditation Office staff to verify the source of the information;
- c. be signed and submitted in writing via U.S. mail, overnight courier, or hand delivery—not via e-mail or as a facsimile—to :

*Chair, Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
2200 Research Boulevard, #310
Rockville, MD 20850*

The complainant's burden of proof is a preponderance, or greater weight, of the evidence. These procedures do not prevent the CAA from considering a complaint against an accredited or candidate program if the program is involved in litigation or other actions by a third party.