



March 4, 2019

Southern Illinois University, Carbondale  
Rehabilitation Institute  
1025 Lincoln Drive  
Carbondale, IL 62901

Dear Dr. Mark Dixon,

I write to you on behalf of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) Accreditation Board to inform you that the Board has deferred decisions on re-accreditation of the master's program and accreditation of the bachelor's and doctoral programs, pending receipt of evidence that the programs have made specific improvements within two years.

The Board agreed with the site visit reports, there are commendable aspects to the Southern Illinois University programs as it has historically been an effective training program. There are also areas in which improvements are needed.

The recent faculty departures have increased the workload for the remaining faculty members. Furthermore, it has increased the workload for PhD students who are teaching the undergraduate courses (uncompensated) and mentoring master students' research. These concerns were highlighted in Standards 2 and 5.

**Standard 2 - Curriculum.** Specifically, item 2-109, there were concerns of quality of mentoring numerous master's student theses with a low number faculty.

**Standard 5 - Resources.** The low number of faculty puts the program's quality and sustainability at risk.

There are three other areas in which specific improvements are needed:

**Standard 3 - Outcomes Assessment.** The bachelor's and master's programs have little documentation of graduates' job placements.

**Standard 7- Student services.** The master's and doctoral programs did not adhere to the April 15 Resolution of the Council of Graduate Students, to give students offered stipends an April 15 deadline to accept them.

**Standard 8 - Public Disclosure.** The program's website had a lack of clarity or was missing information.

The Board appreciates the response letter indicated immediate action plans to address these areas of concern. Given the recent resignation of faculty members, the academic restructuring, and the areas needing improvements, the Board voted to allow your program up to two years to address these items.

In accordance with item 3-1-103, from the ABAI Accreditation Handbook, the previous grant of accreditation of the master's program is automatically extended during the deferral period. The



program will be expected to complete the annual accreditation reports and submit the annual accreditation fees, beginning this year. The bachelor's and doctoral programs will remain unaccredited.

Following this deferral period, the programs will submit new self-study reports, acknowledging the areas of improvement, and arrange for a site visit. There will not be an additional fee associated with the new self-study applications – only the site visitor fees. Please know the self-study applications may be submitted sooner, if criteria are met before the two-year deferral period expires.

The Board understands that this is not the decision you sought. The Board respects the program at SIU and its long history of contributions to the field. In the end, however, the Board could not grant accreditation to the baccalaureate and doctoral programs on the basis of planned improvements such as the hiring of additional faculty members. The improvements first must be implemented and documented. By extending the accreditation of the master's program during the deferral period, the Board believes it has acted as generously as its governance document allows.

If you have any questions about the deferral period and processes, please do not hesitate to contact me. Additionally, if your program assigns a new Program Administrator during the current term, please notify the Board immediately so we may update our records.

Sincerely,

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Jenna Mrljak, Ph.D., BCBA  
Education Manager  
Association for Behavior Analysis International  
ABAIaccreditation@ABAIInternational.org

cc: Michael Perone, Ph.D., ABAI Accreditation Board Chair