



October 3, 2022

Southern Illinois University
Rehn Hall 335A, Mailcode 6502
Carbondale, IL 62901

Dear Dr. Ryan Redner,

On behalf of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) Accreditation Board, I write to inform you that the Board has deferred its decision on the re-accreditation of the on-campus master's program.

First, the Board wants to acknowledge that there have been significant changes to the operations, administration, and overall structure of the program over the past several years. As such, the Board deferred its accreditation decision in 2019 because of the change in faculty, academic restructuring in the college, and a few other areas needing improvements.

During the recent re-accreditation application and site visit, it became apparent that the program had evolved from one hybrid program that offered some online instruction to two, separate programs (one online and one on-campus). The Board acknowledges the faculty work to maintain parity between the two programs. However, there are differences between the admissions processes, supervised experiential learning, and faculty (both teaching and supervision). Therefore, the Board agreed these programs must be reviewed as separate programs.

Additionally, due to recent evolution of the program, the self-study appears to be out of date. Much of the reported information reflects faculty who have not been with the program for a couple of years, and more recent faculty contributions and student projects were not fully evaluated. It may be the case that the program is better resourced and well-structured now, but the site visitors and Board were unable to reach a fair and thorough evaluation with the information provided in the self-study.

The Board agreed with the site visit reports. There are commendable aspects to the Southern Illinois University master's programs, especially as the on-campus program has historically been an effective training program. The Board would like to evaluate the program fairly and appropriately, based on more recent information and data.

The Board has extended the deferral period, if the on-campus program would like to retain its accreditation, a new self-study application is required. Program leadership can



decide if the online program would like to apply for accreditation separately. The Board would like to ensure the self-study application includes the most recent information about the on-campus operations for an accurate and efficient application. Specifically, the new self-study should reflect on-campus information and data from the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 academic and calendar years, and, as available, information about the current 2022-2023 program operations (faculty, practicum sites, curriculum, etc.). The Board requests focused information about who had teaching, advising, or student supervision in the on-campus programs.

- teaching assignments (specific courses)
- advising assignments (number students)
- practicum supervision (number of students)
- student projects (on-campus students and faculty)
- conference presentations and publications (on-campus students and faculty)
- outcomes assessment (on-campus students and faculty)
- other details as needed to clarify the faculty members' workload and roles

The on-campus self-study application must be submitted by January 31, 2023, and the site visit, report, and program response must conclude by March 31, 2023.

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

The Board understands that this is not the decision you sought. The Board respects the programs at Southern Illinois University and its success in training quality graduates. In the end, however, the Board could not fully evaluate the quality of the program absent detailed information about the current operations and outcomes. By extending the accreditation of the on-campus master's program during the deferral period, the Board believes it has acted as generously as its governance document allows.

I am available to help. I will be glad to discuss the Board's requirements with you and, if you would like, we can include Mike Perone, the Board Coordinator, in the discussion.

As the on-campus master's program remains accredited, the program is required to pay an annual sustaining fee as described in Title VII Section 7-1-104 of the *Accreditation Handbook*, and to remain in compliance with the Board's policies and procedures. I would like to call special attention to three important policies related to public disclosure. Your program is required to:



ABAI
ACCREDITATION
BOARD

1. share the program's accreditation status and display the Board's masters-level accreditation seal on the program's web site. (See the Board's *Policy on Public Disclosure of Accreditation Status*.) The on-campus program is compliant with this requirement.
2. display on your website a prominent link to the aggregate report of the program's student outcomes that is posted on the Board's website. The link to your program's page and aggregate report is:
<https://accreditation.abainternational.org/apply/accredited-programs/southern-illinois-university.aspx> (See Title IX, Chapter 3 of the *Accreditation Handbook*.) The on-campus program is compliant with this requirement as it links to the annual reports page.
3. submit an annual report and annual fee, normally due April 1 of each year, as described in Title VII of the *Accreditation Handbook*, using the form posted at <https://forms.gle/hjStiMjAu2FduRp79>. We received your 2021 report information and 2022 annual sustaining fee for the on-campus program – thank you.

The aforementioned policies can be found via the “Documents” tab at <https://accreditation.abainternational.org>. As program administrator, you should familiarize yourself with the materials in this section of the Board's website.

If your program assigns a new program administrator during this period, please notify me immediately so I can update our records. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. We look forward to the continued developments and improvements of the programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenna Mrljak".

--

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

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