

# COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION

## RECOGNITION DECISION SUMMARY

### ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION OF BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED ACCREDITATION COUNCIL (AERAC)

In accordance with the [2021 CHEA Standards and Procedures for Recognition](#), Procedures-B.11, this summary provides the reason(s) for the recognition decision by the CHEA Board of Directors.

#### Profile of Accrediting Organization

Type of Accreditor: Programmatic

Number of Programs: 24

#### Current CHEA-Recognized Scope of Accreditation

*AERAC accredits baccalaureate and graduate preparation programs in the United States of America and Canada that prepare teachers and practitioners to work with children and adults who are blind and those with low vision. These programs address the disciplines of Orientation and Mobility, Vision Rehabilitation Therapy, Low Vision Therapy, Assistive Technology and Teacher of Students with Visual Impairment. (2024)*

#### CHEA Recognition Information

History: Action deferred on recognition for one year, October 2022

#### Most Recent Recognition Action

Date: CHEA Board of Directors Meeting, January 29, 2024

Decision: The CHEA Board of Directors awarded initial CHEA recognition for a term of seven years with a Follow-up Report due December 1, 2024 and an Interim Report due at the midpoint of the recognition term (July 1, 2027). The Follow-up Report is to specifically address Standard 2.B. which seeks evidence the accrediting organization implements and upholds standards, policies or procedures that require accredited institutions and programs to provide current, readily accessible, accurate data to the public regarding student learning outcomes and/or achievement data.

#### Summary of Prior Recognition Decisions

CHEA Board of Directors Meeting, October 3, 2022: The Committee on Recognition informed the CHEA Board of Directors that it deferred action on recognition for one year. AERAC is to submit a response addressing CHEA Standards 1.A. (advance academic quality using quantitative and/or qualitative measures), 2.B. (provide current, readily accessible, accurate data to the public regarding student learning outcomes and/or achievement data), 2.D. (timely action to prevent substantially underperforming programs from maintaining accreditation), 3.D. (meet all standards within a specified period of time not to exceed four years), 3.E. (makes clear distinctions between required actions and suggested actions for program improvement), 3.F. (has a process to ensure consistency in accreditation reviews and accreditation actions while allowing for varying institutional or programmatic mission, purpose and operation), and 3.I. (has sufficient financial, staff and operational resources to perform and sustain its accreditation functions efficiently and effectively).