

AER Accreditation Program

Decision Summary

Name of University: University of Pittsburgh

Program: Teacher of the Visually Impaired

Degree level: Master’s

Name of Program Director: Frances Mary D’Andrea

Name of University Dean/University Representative: Cassie Quigley, Ph.D., Department Chair, Teaching, Learning, & Leading, School of Education

Date Application Submitted: May 27, 2022

Date Recommendation Completed: July 18, 2024

Application Type: Re-Accreditation

**Panel’s Narrative:**

The University of Pittsburgh applied for re-accreditation on May 27, 2022, during the Covid pandemic and well in advance of its expiration date. However, the program was delayed in submitting its materials due to circumstances beyond its control. The panel met initially July 14, 2023. Additional information was requested during the process and the university responded with additional materials. The virtual tour was conducted April 22, 2024, and interviews were completed in May. Due to attendance at the International BANA conference by a panel member and U of Pittsburgh program director, the final panel meeting was held June 17, 2024. The University was provided the panel’s draft recommendation and a two-week period to respond.

**Summary of AERAC’s Conclusions:**

AER Accreditation Council received the recommendation for Full Accreditation from the Higher Education Accreditation Commission on July 18, 2024, along with all supporting documents from the university and working consensus reports from the review panel. The members of the panel had been previously approved, at the start of the review process.

In due consideration of the materials, AER Accreditation Council concurred with the recommendation.

**AERAC Decision:**

* Full Accreditation

**The University of Pittsburgh’s Teacher of the Visually Impaired Program is Fully Accredited through July 31, 2029.**

**Summary of Accreditation Actions:**

7-11-2024 HEAC Recommendation:  Full Accreditation for O&M Program and TVI Program

7-18-2024 AERAC Decision:  Full Accreditation for O&M Program and TVI Program

**History of AERAC Accreditations:**

9-1-2018 Full Initial Accreditation of TVI program by AER Accreditation Council