

AER Accreditation Program

Decision Summary

Name of University: Western Michigan University

Program: Vision Rehabilitation Therapy Program

Degree level: Master’s

Name of Program Director: Elyse Connors

Name of University Dean/University Representative: Ron Cisler, PhD

Date Application Submitted:  February 14, 2020

Date Recommendation Completed:October 15, 2020

Date Decision Summary Report Completed: July 18, 2023

**Panel’s Narrative:**

As a core requirement is not met at this time, the panel agreed to complete the Review Team Report stating the program MEETS the requirements for AER approval PENDING receipt of the Dean’s letter.  The Chair of the department is new and is the person who must ask the Dean.  With the disruption of the Covid-19 pandemic, that process appears to have been waylaid, per interview with Dr. Connors.  Panel agreed that the letter should be provided by September 30, 2020 or the program should be considered as NOT meeting that core standard.

Dean’s Letter dated September 4, 2020 was received.

**Summary of AERAC’s Conclusions:**

AER Accreditation Council received the recommendation for Full Accreditation from the Higher Education Accreditation Commission on August 7, 2020, 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, and upon receipt of the Dean’s Letter, AER Accreditation Council concurred with the recommendation.

**AERAC Decision:**

* Full Accreditation

**Western Michigan University’s Vision Rehabilitation Therapy Program is Fully Accredited through October 14, 2025.**

**Summary of Accreditation Actions:**

8-8-2020 HEAC Recommendation:  Full Accreditation pending receipt of Dean’s Letter.

10-15-2020 AERAC Decision:

* Full Accreditation of the Vision Rehabilitation Therapy Program through October 14, 2025.

**History of AERAC Accreditation:**

Full Approval of Orientation and Mobility Program through 2021\*

Full Accreditation of the Vision Rehabilitation Therapy Program through October 14, 2025.

\*Prior to 2017, AER had a University Review Program which granted “Approval.” This program was reorganized as an Accreditation Program in 2017.