

Audiology

AuD, PhD or ScD

What is an Audiologist?

- Hearing and balance disorders can be assessed, treated, and rehabilitated by an audiologist. Audiologists are healthcare professionals who provide patient-centered care in the prevention, identification, diagnosis, and evidence-based treatment of hearing, balance, and other auditory disorders for people of all ages. Hearing and balance disorders are complex with medical, psychological, physical, social, educational, and employment implications. Treatment services require audiologists to have knowledge of existing and emerging technologies, as well as interpersonal skills to counsel and guide patients and their family members through the rehabilitative process. Audiologists provide professional and personalized services to minimize the negative impact of these disorders, leading to improved outcomes and quality of life.
- Audiologists are licensed and/or regulated in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.



AuD vs. the PhD in Audiology

- The purpose of the master's programs in speech-language pathology and the clinical doctorate programs (AuD or clinical PhD) in audiology is to prepare knowledgeable, competent clinicians who will provide exemplary clinical services to children and adults with communication disorders. Clinicians apply knowledge for the benefit of patients.
- In contrast, the purpose of the PhD degree is to prepare individuals for careers as teachers, scholars, and researchers who educate future clinicians and generate new knowledge by conducting research that addresses questions regarding the nature, diagnosis, and treatment of communication disorders.
- The difference is in the outcome: clinical practice requires clinical preparation, whereas teaching and researching require academic and research preparation in conveying and generating knowledge.

Meet Marion Downs

- Dr. Downs was the first doctor in the U.S. to implement an infant screening program that has since become the national standard for the county.
- Because babies are now screened within the first few hours of their lives, those with impairments can be treated more quickly.
- Dr. Downs was also a renowned teacher and scholar who wrote several books on audiology and teaching pediatric audiology classes all over the world.



Did you know...



- Approx. 55% of the 16,000 U.S. audiologists have received an AuD.
- More than 36 million Americans have some type of hearing problem.
- U.S. News and World Report ranked audiology as one of the 100 Best Careers in 2017.
- Reuters ranked the profession of audiology as one of the least stressful jobs.
- Many audiologists earn six-figure incomes annually.

Education and Training

New audiologists must earn a doctorate in order to begin practicing. The doctoral degree in audiology (Aud.D.) is a four-year graduate program that you can enter while having a bachelor's degree in any field.

Prerequisites vary by program and may include:

- Graduate Record Exam (GRE)
- Biology, Math, Physics, Psychology, Sociology



Apply about 9-12 months prior to desired matriculation via the Communication Sciences & Disorders Centralized Application ([CSDCAS](#))

Use ASHA's EdFind (www.asha.org/edfind/) to locate specific schools of Audiology.

Education and Training

Some audiology programs, like the one at the University of Washington, allow you to specialize in an area of interest, such as pediatric, geriatric or educational audiology. Your coursework will be more specialized accordingly.

Your coursework will include classes such as:

- Anatomy and Physiology: Peripheral Hearing
- Psychoacoustics
- Signals, Systems & Acoustics for the Communication Sciences
- Biological Foundations of Speech & Music
- Amplification
- Clinical Practice and Practicum

Curriculum at a Glance

Years One & Two

- observations
- clinical orientation
- written qualifying exam
- practical assessment

Years Three & Four

- hands-on experience through your externship, internship or other “capstone” style intensive projects



Doctoral Programs in Audiology

ranked highly by US News & World Report

- Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN)
- University of Iowa (Iowa City, IA)
- Washington University in St. Louis (St. Louis, MO)
- University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (Chapel Hill, NC)
- University of Texas-Dallas (Dallas, TX)
- University of Washington (Seattle, WA)
- Northwestern University (Evanston, IL)
- University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh, PA)
- Arizona State University (Tempe, AZ)
- Ohio State University (Columbus OH)



Licensing & Certification

- 300-375 hours of supervised clinical experience
- Passing score on national exam
- 9 months of post-graduate professional clinical experience
- Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology (CCC-A) offered by American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
- You can also be certified by the American Board of Audiology
- For specific requirements, check your state's licensing board for audiology*



For More Information

- American Academy of Audiology: www.audiology.org/
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association: www.asha.org/
- Educational Audiology Association: edaud.org/
- Student Academy of Audiology: saa.audiology.org/

