

ARE THERE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR AUDIOLOGISTS?

Yes, the majority of states have licensing requirements for audiologists. Doctors of Audiology are prepared to receive a license to practice upon graduating with an Au.D. degree.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF HAVING AN AU.D. DEGREE INSTEAD OF A MASTER'S OR PH.D. DEGREE?

Master's level programs have been phased out and replaced by Au.D. programs. A timeline has been set by audiology's professional organizations for the Au.D. degree to replace the master's degree as the entry level degree for the profession.

Professional doctorate (Au.D.) programs exceed the academic and training experience that had been established by master's level programs and provide at least four years of training and education after the completion of a Baccalaureate degree. The Ph.D. focuses on preparation for research and is not a professional practice degree.

The Ph.D. is an academic degree. An academic degree prohibits the audiologist from using the Au.D. (Doctor of Audiology) title, the expected title of an individual who is providing a doctoring service.

Physicians are doctors of medicine (M.D.), dentists are doctors of dentistry (D.D.S.), optometrists are doctors of optometry (O.D.), etc. The Au.D. degree places its holder on par with others who hold professional doctoring degrees.

The public benefits from the quality of care resulting from Doctor of Audiology programs, and the Doctor of Audiology enjoys the recognition, acceptance, prestige and economic rewards associated with a doctoring profession.

Sources : Audiology Foundation of America, American Academy of Audiology, Academy of Doctors of Audiology, National Association of Future Doctors of Audiology, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. News and World Reports, American Academy of Audiology 2005 Salary Survey.

AUDIOLOGY WEBSITES:

AUDIOLOGY FOUNDATION OF AMERICA
www.AuDfound.org

ACADEMY OF DOCTORS OF AUDIOLOGY
www.audiologist.org

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF AUDIOLOGY
www.audiology.org

NATIONAL ASSOC. OF FUTURE DOCTORS OF AUDIOLOGY
www.nafda.org



This brochure was prepared by the Audiology Foundation of America. The AFA is charged with transforming audiology to a doctoring profession with the Au.D. as its distinctive designator.

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Jan 2007

Audiology:

A DOCTORING PROFESSION

AFA AUDIOLOGY
FOUNDATION
OF AMERICA

Au.D. means professional hearing care

WHAT IS A DOCTOR OF AUDIOLOGY?

A Doctor of Audiology is an independent professional who specializes in the diagnosis, management, and treatment of hearing and balance disorders from birth through adulthood. The audiologist has earned a doctoral degree (Au.D.) from a regionally accredited educational institution.

WHAT DO DOCTORS OF AUDIOLOGY DO?

Doctors of Audiology provide direct services to patients with hearing or balance disorders. They conduct a wide variety of tests to determine the exact nature of the patient's hearing or balance problem, and interpret the results of the tests to recommend a course of treatment. They can recommend, fit, and dispense hearing devices, as well as provide fitting and tuning of cochlear and middle ear implants. Doctors of Audiology also provide rehabilitative services, education, and counseling for patients and their families.

WHERE DO DOCTORS OF AUDIOLOGY PRACTICE?

Doctors of Audiology practice in a variety of settings including: private practices, medical clinics, otolaryngologists' offices, hospitals, schools, colleges/universities, and nursing homes. They may also serve as consultants to industry.

WHAT SCHOOLS/COLLEGES OFFER A DOCTOR OF AUDIOLOGY (AU.D.) DEGREE?

For information about the schools/colleges that offer an Au.D. degree, visit the Audiology Foundation of America website: www.AuDfound.org.

IS THERE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR AU.D. STUDENTS?

Yes, financial aid is available for Au.D. students through fellowships, graduate assistantships, and other types of funding. For more information, contact the school/college of your choice.

IS THERE A DEMAND FOR DOCTORS OF AUDIOLOGY?

In January, 2006, *U.S. News & World Reports* listed audiology in first place among its "Excellent Careers of 2006." In addition, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that growth is expected in the audiology field through 2014, due in large part to the rapid growth anticipated in older population segments. Baby Boomers are now entering middle age, when the possibility of hearing impairment increases. Because hearing loss is strongly associated with aging, rapid growth in the 55 and older population group will cause the number of people with hearing impairments to increase proportionately.

Advances in early detection and intervention of hearing disorders in infants and children will also lead to increased employment in school settings. A rise in the number of audiologists in private practice will result from the use of contract services by hospitals, schools and nursing homes, as well as an increased demand for direct services by hearing-impaired individuals.

WHAT IS THE AVERAGE INCOME FOR DOCTORS OF AUDIOLOGY?

In 2005, graduates of four-year Au.D. programs earned an average salary of \$60,433. It is reasonable to expect that their income should follow a path similar to that of other doctoring professions.

WHAT UNDERGRADUATE COURSES ARE NECESSARY FOR ADMISSION INTO AN AU.D. PROGRAM?

The requirements for admission vary, but the suggested pre-audiology curriculum includes:

Biology/Zoology	6 credits
Chemistry	4-8 credits
Mathematics	6 credits
Physics	4-8 credits
Communication	3 credits
Statistics	3 credits
English	6 credits
Psychology	3 credits
Humanities	9 credits
Social Sciences	9 credits
Foreign Language	6 credits
Business Management	3 credits

Each school/college has its own requirements, so it is advisable to contact the institution of your choice for the specific requirements.