

FACTS About Audiology and Hearing Loss

- » *U.S. News and World Report* ranked audiology as one of the **Best Careers** in 2006, 2007, and 2008.
- » As of 2007, nearly **5,000** of the 12,000 audiologists practicing in the United States have received an **Au.D.**
- » More than **31 million Americans** have some type of **hearing problem**.
- » At least **half of all Americans** will experience some type of **balance problem** in their lifetime.
- » Many audiologists earn **6 figures annually**.
- » More than **60 Au.D. programs** were open as of 2007.
- » Audiologists **work with patients of all ages**, from newborns to older adults.





Important Web Sites

American Academy of Audiology

www.audiology.org

American Board of Audiology

www.americanboardofaudiology.org

American Academy of Audiology Foundation

www.audiologyfoundation.org

Academy of Doctors of Audiology

www.audiologist.org

Audiology Foundation of America

www.audfound.org

**National Association of Future Doctors
of Audiology**

www.nafda.org

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF AUDIOLOGY



11730 Plaza America Drive

Suite 300

Reston, VA 20190

Phone: 800-AAA-2336 | 703-790-8466

Fax: 703-790-8631

www.audiology.org

A Career in Audiology



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF AUDIOLOGY

www.audiology.org



What Is an Audiologist?



Audiologists are the primary health-care professionals who diagnose, treat, and manage individuals with hearing loss or balance disorders. They prescribe and fit hearing aids and cochlear implants. Audiologists also perform surgical monitoring, and design and implement hearing conservation and newborn hearing screening programs.

With most audiologists earning a Doctor of Audiology (Au.D) degree, audiology is transitioning from a master's- to a doctoral-level profession.

Where Do Audiologists Practice?

Audiologists work in a variety of settings:

- » Private practice
- » Private clinics
- » Hospitals
- » Universities
- » Schools
- » Hearing instrument industry
- » Federal government
- » Otolaryngology offices
- » General industry

What Does an Audiologist Earn?

Salaries vary widely depending on work setting. According to the American Academy of Audiology 2006 Salary Survey, audiologists with 1–3 years of experience and a 4-year Au.D. degree earn an average salary of \$52,000 annually.

Audiologists with more than 20 years of experience, earn more than \$96,000 annually.

Are There Licensing Requirements?

Yes, most states have licensing requirements for audiologists. Audiologists should be prepared to receive a license to practice upon graduating with an Au.D. degree.

Is Board Certification Available?

Yes, board certification is available through the American Board of Audiology (ABA) but is not mandatory. Audiologists can also receive specialty certification through the ABA.

What Comprises an Au.D. Program?

The focus of the professional doctorate in audiology (Au.D.) is on the development of clinical proficiency. The Au.D. is the highest university award given in recognition of preparation for professional audiology practice and does not require a dissertation for its completion.

The Au.D. is a 4-year professional doctorate and will be the entry-level degree for audiology by 2012.

For a list of Au.D. programs, visit:

www.audiology.org/aboutaudiology/studentinfo.

This Web site includes information about:

- » Choosing the right program;
- » Becoming a student member of the Academy;
- » Finding programs abroad; and much more.

Is Financial Aid Available?

Financial aid, scholarships, and grants are available. Research financial options through audiology organizations or by contacting graduate schools of interest.

What Should I Do Once I am Interested?

Research the career of audiology on the American Academy of Audiology Web site. Contact audiologists in your area and ask to shadow them for a few hours. Research Au.D. programs that interest you to learn their requirements prior to applying.

