

AUDIOLOGY ROUNDTABLE: PAYMENT DURING THE 4TH YEAR AuD EXPERIENCE

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- 1. In part, the concept of payments to 4th year externs may arise from past experiences with the clinical fellowship year, even though the two models are designed differently.**

Participants in this Roundtable compared and contrasted the two models, as summarized below.

Au.D. Externship	CFY
12 months, full-time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External to university program, spaced throughout the Au.D. program • Usually is the 4th year • Could be more than one site 	9 months, full-time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually external to university program • Could be more than one site
Student	Employee
Part of the degree requirement.	Degree already completed.
University oversees the externship in partnership with the clinical site.	Graduate chose CFY site and supervisor; university not involved.
Academic credit is awarded.	No academic credit.
Required for certification/licensure.	Required for certification/licensure.
University is responsible for the quality of the experience.	University not involved.
University specifies skills to be acquired (knowledge, skills, formative assessment).	CF Skills inventory specified 21 skills to be evaluated by the CF mentor.

University requires evaluations and feedback to the student and the academic program.	Skills were evaluated 3 times during the 9 months. No fewer than 18 on-site observations were required.
Partnership between university program and clinical site; contract; affiliation agreement.	Agreement was between the new graduate and the clinical site.
Should payment be involved?	CF was paid a salary.

2. Do other professions pay students on externships or rotations?

ADA Position Paper: Doctor of Audiology Student Issues on Financial Aid and Licensure (2004)

American Dental Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No salaries when sent to externship sites • No temporary/provisional license
American Medical Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No salaries on clerkships and externships • No license of any kind
American Osteopathic Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical rotations or externship sites do not pay student salaries. • No level of licensure available prior to earning the entry level degree.
American Podiatric Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites are not expected to pay students salaries. These are students. • No temporary or provisional licenses

<p>Pennsylvania College of Optometry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health professional students are not paid for work that they perform during an externship that is part of their first professional degree program.
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3. What are the PROs and CONs of allowing students to be paid by a clinical site during the externship?

PROs

Helps lessen student debt.

May help university programs with student recruitment (related to above).

CONs

May move student from learner to employee (billing expectations?)

May reduce number of sites available - i.e., good sites that cannot offer payment.

May reduce the number of sites that students will consider. That is, a student may not find a site to be “acceptable” if it does not offer payment.

Potential problem of the student wanting a particular externship based on funding rather than learning experiences.

May confuse “who is in charge” – the university or the clinical site.

May lead to clinical sites requiring academic programs to pay for the clinical experience provided by the site.

4. Talking Points related to the question of student funding during the fourth year:

- Have assumptions already been made that externs should be paid??
- Should students be given the expectation that extern sites will provide payment?
- If students are to be paid, should payment be made by the university or the clinical site (or both)?
- If students are to be paid, is the form of payment important - e.g., salary, stipend, traineeship, academic award, hourly wage, etc.
- If students are to be paid, should certain conditions be present?
- Who is taking the lead on this issue - university programs or clinical sites?
- Is externship payment something that university programs should be concerned about in addition to the qualitative aspects of the externship site?

5. Opinions expressed by one or more attendees at the Roundtable:

- Students should be informed prior to entering their AuD programs that there is no guarantee/intention of payment during any of their clinical placements, even though some sites do offer payments to 4th year students. As a result, some students may be paid and some not.
- If it is the case that the program is not involved in any payment arrangement between the site and student, then the program should explain that to the student.
- Students should be able to bill at externship sites, in order to maintain the viability of having sites available for students.
- Students should not be billing at externship sites, as that risks changing their role from student/learner to employee.