

## What Are the Educational Requirements?

A doctoral level degree is required to pursue a career in audiology. The Doctor of Audiology (Au.D) is a clinical doctorate; the Ph.D. is often reserved for those interested in pursuing careers in research and higher education. According to the American Academy of Audiology, the Au.D. degree program typically includes four years of academic and clinical training after the completion of a bachelor's degree. To be eligible for an Illinois license, a student must graduate from an accredited university, have accumulated sufficient supervised experience hours, and pass a national competency examination.

Prerequisites for Au.D. programs vary among different educational institutions. A prospective student should verify specific course requirements with admissions professionals. In general, Au.D. program requirements parallel those traditionally seen in other healthcare doctoring professions. A basic science background is considered significant. A Ph.D. program in audiology includes intensive coursework and a dissertation.

Au.D. program coursework may include:

- **Physics of sound, acoustics, psychoacoustics**
- **Research methods and statistics**
- **Electronics, instrumentation and calibration**
- **Anatomy and physiology of hearing and balance**
- **Diseases and pathologies of the ear and the nervous system**
- **Embryology and genetics**
- **Clinical pharmacology**
- **Epidemiology**
- **Audiologic assessment**
- **Medical and educational considerations**
- **Clinical decision process/counseling**
- **Professional issues and practice management**
- **Conservation of hearing and prevention of hearing loss**
- **Audiologic habilitation and rehabilitation**
- **Management of amplification**
- **Vestibular evaluation and remediation**
- **Pediatric and geriatric audiology**

## How Can I Learn More About Becoming An Audiologist?

There are several websites that provide additional information about audiology.

[www.audiology.org](http://www.audiology.org)  
[www.audiologist.org](http://www.audiologist.org)  
[www.ilaudiology.org](http://www.ilaudiology.org)  
[www.audfound.org](http://www.audfound.org)  
[www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org)  
[www.nafda.org](http://www.nafda.org)  
[www.audiologyonline.com](http://www.audiologyonline.com)

By searching "Find an Audiologist" on the **Illinois Academy of Audiology** website [www.ilaudiology.org](http://www.ilaudiology.org), you may find an audiologist in your area who can offer you additional insight into the field and work environment. Illinois universities that offer the Au.D. degree also may provide facility tours and additional information. Universities in Illinois that offer the Au.D. are :

Illinois State University  
Northern Illinois University  
Northwestern University\*  
Rush University  
University of Illinois-Champaign\*

\* Offers both Au.D. and Ph.D. programs

Consider the multi-faceted field of audiology as your profession. As one Illinois Au.D. student states:

*"The profession of audiology combined many aspects such as interacting with people, aiding in diagnostics, and being part of a multidisciplinary team that greatly appealed to me when I chose my future career... Audiology is no longer only an interest for me, it is an important part of who I am as a person."*

**ILAA**  
**Illinois Academy of Audiology**  
The Voice of Audiology in Illinois™

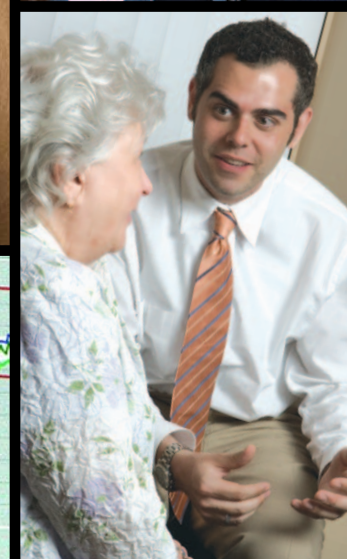
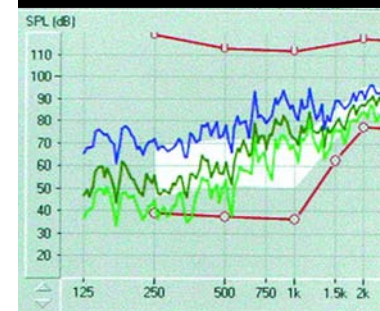
61 Martin Lane • Elk Grove Village, IL 60007  
[www.ilaudiology.org](http://www.ilaudiology.org) 1-800-963-ILAA(4522)

# Careers in Audiology



### Hearing & Balance

- Assessment • Treatment
- Prevention • Education
- Research



ILLINOIS ACADEMY OF AUDIOLOGY

## What Is An Audiologist?

Audiologists are licensed healthcare professionals who diagnose and provide audiologic treatment of hearing and balance disorders. They are responsible for identifying and rehabilitating hearing loss in individuals of all ages, from newborns to the elderly. Research audiologists conduct research in all areas related to audiology and hearing science.



*Counseling a patient on the different types of hearing devices.*

In addition to providing assessment and rehabilitation services, audiologists are advocates for:

- **Early identification of hearing loss in newborns and infants**
- **Promotion of hearing conservation and use of proper hearing protection**
- **Proper implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act**
- **Appropriate educational services and acoustic environments for children with hearing impairments**
- **Excellence in education and mentoring of student audiologists**

## What Does An Audiologist Do?

The profession of audiology offers a challenging and fulfilling career. Combining fascinating aspects of the health, human services, and technology fields, audiologists work in private practices or in medical, clinical, educational, charitable, university, corporate, or governmental settings.

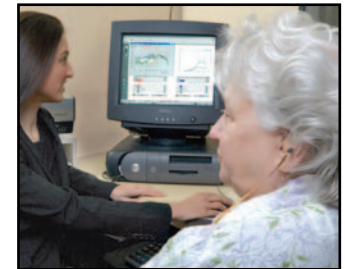
Audiologists conduct hearing and balance evaluations to assess the function of the hearing and balance system. In addition, audiologists may provide services to patients seeking cochlear implantation, perform intraoperative monitoring during many surgical procedures, and act as preceptors to audiology students.

As a rehabilitation specialist for people with hearing impairments, audiologists recommend and dispense hearing instruments, amplification systems, hearing assistive devices, and tinnitus devices. They offer informational counseling, discuss strategies for facilitating communication, and assist individuals and families in their adjustment to hearing loss.

Audiologists also may provide specialized hearing protection devices, informational counseling, and effectiveness assessment to musicians and individuals who are exposed to excessive levels of occupational or recreational sounds. Some audiologists offer hearing conservation services to employers, provide forensic audiology services, and teach or supervise students in university settings. Many audiologists also choose a career in auditory research. Although the Au.D is the entry level practice degree, audiologists also can choose to obtain a Ph.D. Audiologists with a Ph.D. may conduct clinical, basic, or translational research in a variety of employment settings including private practice, medical/university, and industry/product development. They also frequently lecture world-wide and teach in audiology training programs.



*Checking a patient's ears*



*Programming a patient's hearing aid*



*Performing videonystaggraphy to evaluate the various parts of the balance system.*



*Performing otoacoustic emissions test on a newborn to screen for hearing loss.*

## Common Audiologic Assessment Procedures

<b>Audiological Evaluation:</b>	Tests for hearing sensitivity and word recognition ability
<b>Tympanograms/Acoustic Reflexes:</b>	Measurements to assess middle ear function and the auditory pathway
<b>Otoscopy:</b>	Examination of the ear canal and eardrum for audiologic procedures
<b>Otoacoustic Emissions:</b>	A measure of the function of part of the sensory system of the ear
<b>Auditory Brainstem Response :</b>	A measure of auditory pathway function
<b>Electronystagmography:</b>	A multi-part assessment used to measure the function of the balance system