

AUDIOLOGY FAST FACTS

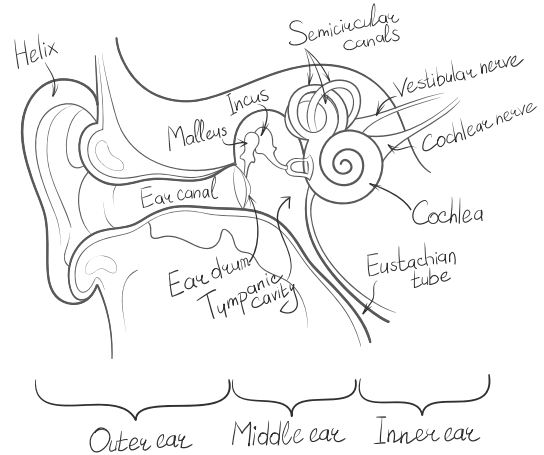
About Audiologists

An audiologist is a highly trained health care professional, specializing in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of audiological disorders. Audiologists are university-educated and licensed to specifically evaluate, diagnose, manage, and treat hearing and balance disorders, and to identify medical-related conditions that require a referral to a medical doctor. A Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) degree is required to become a clinical audiologist, and audiologists are licensed in all 50 states.

Audiologists are trained and licensed to manage many areas of audiology health care including providing the following services:

- Comprehensive audiological evaluations including tests of hearing sensitivity, speech understanding, middle ear function, inner ear and auditory nerve function
- Diagnostic assessments to identify balance (imbalance)/dizziness/vertigo/disequilibrium
- Auditory processing evaluations and treatment
- Prescription, selection and fitting of hearing instruments and assistive listening devices
- Design, selection, installation and monitoring of classroom amplification systems
- Rehabilitation therapy for hearing disorders which might include strategies to improve aided and unaided hearing, speech-reading and sign language
- Rehabilitation for auditory processing disorders
- Rehabilitation for vestibular (balance) disorders
- Cerumen (earwax) removal and management
- Evaluation and management of tinnitus (ringing in the ears)
- Patient and family counseling related to diagnosis and treatment
- Development and implementation of hearing conservation programs to prevent hearing loss
- Increasing awareness about and prevention of the ingestion of ototoxic substances
- Research and development of new evaluation techniques and rehabilitation strategies

There are approximately 15,000 practicing audiologists in the United States. Audiologists work in a variety of different practice settings, because of their extensive scope of practice, including private practice clinics, hospitals, military clinics, schools, universities and industrial settings. Audiologists help develop professional standards for audiology health care and are represented on the boards of state and national governmental agencies.



About the Academy of Doctors of Audiology:

The [Academy of Doctors of Audiology](http://www.audiologist.org) (ADA) is dedicated to the advancement of practitioner excellence, high ethical standards, professional autonomy and sound business practices in the provision of quality audiology care. For more information, visit www.audiologist.org.