Audiology

Doctor of Audiology (Au.D) Program

The Doctor of audiology (Au.D.) program at West Virginia University was inaugurated in 2004 when the clinical doctorate became the entry-level degree for the profession of audiology. The Au.D. is a professional program that emphasizes the knowledge and skills requisite to practice audiology in an effective, ethical, and inclusive manner. The purpose of the Au.D. program is to provide students with the academic and clinical preparation to diagnose and treat the full range of hearing and vestibular disorders in all age groups. It is the goal of the program to prepare audiologists who are competent to work effectively in a wide variety of clinical settings, including hospitals, clinics, special treatment centers, schools, industry, and private practice. The program consists of 116 credit hours of academic coursework and clinical practicum experiences, including a fourth year residency. Graduates must demonstrate acquisition of all knowledge and skills delineated in the Standards for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology (CCC-A). The Au.D. program is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

ADMISSION

All applicants for the Au.D. program must have a baccalaureate degree or equivalent from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning and present the following by the January 15 deadline:

1. An undergraduate major in speech pathology and audiology or communication sciences and disorders
   [In some cases, applicants without preparatory coursework in speech-language pathology and audiology may be considered for graduate admission, but the program of study will require completion of additional coursework, which may extend the length of the program];
2. One official transcript from each college attended, including final grades for the fall courses taken during the previous semester if applicable
   [Transcripts must be submitted to CSDCAS for verification];
3. An overall undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 (A = 4.0);
4. An official copy of the applicant’s Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores
   [GRE Scores must be submitted to CSDCAS using the ETS Designated Institution code 6934];
5. Proof of English language proficiency for any applicant whose first language is not English
   [A score of at least 213 on the computer-based TOEFL, 550 on the paper-based TOEFL, or 79 on the internet-based TOEFL, or a score of at least 6.5 on the IELTS is required of applicants whose first language is not English];
6. Three letters of recommendation (at least 2 from academic faculty) that reflect the applicant’s academic and clinical abilities, potential for success in graduate studies, and personal qualities predictive of professional success as a speech-language pathologist
   [Letters of recommendation must be submitted through CSDCAS];
7. A personal statement submitted through CSDCAS describing the applicant’s goals, aspirations, and motivation for pursuing professional doctoral education in audiology

Applications for the Doctor of Audiology program must be submitted through the Communication Sciences & Disorders Centralized Application Service (CSDCAS). To access CSDCAS, visit https://portal.csdcas.org. To be considered for admission an application must be “complete” on or before January 15. A complete application is one that has been e-submitted and all transcripts, scores, statement, letters of recommendation, and payments have been received by CSDCAS and attached to the application. Documents should be sent two weeks prior to the January 15 deadline to ensure that items arrive on time. The timeliness of the application is considered the responsibility of the applicant.

Applicants subsequently recommended for acceptance will then be instructed to submit a WVU Graduate application with the WVU application fee and official transcripts that include final fall grades to complete the admission process. It is only possible for admitted students to begin the Au.D. program in the fall semester.

Au.D./Ph.D. Option

Doctor of Audiology students who are attending WVU may apply to the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program no earlier than spring semester of the second year to begin fall of the third year. If accepted to the Au.D./Ph.D. option, they will hold dual enrollment as an Au.D. and Ph.D. student until completion of the Au.D. degree. This will be a competitive application process and is reserved for highly-qualified and motivated Au.D. students. For additional information, please refer to the Ph.D. Program Requirements (http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/collegeofhumanresourcesandeducation/spa/commsci/#doctoraltext).

Doctor of Audiology

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required
A minimum grade of B or higher is required in all graduate coursework
CSAD courses and associated laboratories 64
Coursework in related areas of counseling, research methods, and business 6
Electives 3
Clinical Practicum 19
Clinical residency 24
Completion of ASHA-approved practicum experience equivalent to a minimum of twelve months of full-time supervised experience
Passing score on Praxis exam in Audiology
Scholarly work approved by the student's advisory committee submitted in written form
Total Hours 116

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS
All students in the Au.D. program must be full-time in residence during the program of study. The minimum duration for graduate study is eleven consecutive semesters (including summer sessions). Part-time students are not eligible for admission to the Au.D. degree program.

Major Learning Outcomes

AUDIOLOGY

The Au.D. program has been designed to provide an understanding of the normal processes of hearing and communication with the academic and clinical preparation to diagnose and treat the full range of hearing disorders in all age groups. The goal is to prepare audiologists who are competent to work in a wide variety of clinical settings, including hospitals, clinics, special treatment centers, schools, industry, and private practice. The program’s intent is to provide the knowledge and skills necessary to practice audiology autonomously in an effective, ethical manner. Graduates of the Au.D. Program should be able to:

• Communicate and practice in a contemporary, professional, ethical, culturally sensitive, and effective manner in the areas of advocacy, consultation, education, inter-professional collaboration, and administration.
• Plan, perform, and evaluate services or programs related to the prevention and identification of auditory and vestibular disorders, and related systems.
• Plan, perform, and evaluate assessment of individuals with suspected disorders of auditory and vestibular systems.
• Plan, perform, and evaluate intervention of individuals with disorders of auditory, balance, and related systems.
• Critically evaluate and interpret relevant research to support evidence-based audiological practice.