

DOCTOR OF AUDIOLOGY (AuD) PROGRAM

Program Overview

Ball State University's Doctor of Audiology (AuD) program is a four-year, post-baccalaureate degree. The program is broad in scope, covering the diverse areas of audiology and related areas. Students will become proficient in hearing and balance evaluation procedures, electrophysiology, neuro-otology, genetics of hearing loss, hearing aids and aural rehabilitation, cochlear implants, pharmacology, and private practice audiology. Clinical experiences, both on and off campus, are an integral part of the program, beginning in the first year and culminating in a full-time externship during the fourth year.

The Doctor of Audiology (AuD) Program at Ball State University is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA). The Ball State University AuD program exceeds all necessary course work and practicum requirements for licensure or registration in audiology* and certification from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

* Each state has its own licensure or registration laws for audiologists. The Ball State AuD program will prepare individuals to practice audiology throughout the United States. Students interested in practicing outside of the United States should familiarize themselves with the laws in that jurisdiction.

THE Aud PROGRAM AT BALL STATE UNIVERSITY IS DIFFERENT

The Ball State University AuD program helped pave the way for audiology as a doctoral profession. The program opened in 1996, and is the second oldest AuD program in the United States. The Ball State faculty are comprised of practicing AuD and PhD audiologists, with a commitment to excellence in patient care and clinician training. Alumni of the program reside throughout the United States and practice in hospitals, clinics, private practices, universities, rehabilitation centers, and public schools.

The Ball State University AuD program has a unique approach to training that focuses on helping students to develop professional independence and leadership qualities. Students share in the responsibility of clinic operation and provide input into the direction of the program through work on committees and by providing regular feedback to the faculty. Throughout the course of the program, students will not only learn and polish the skills necessary for a career in audiology, but they will make friendships and professional relationships that will last a lifetime.

Other strengths that set the Ball State University AuD program apart include:

- Courses that are taught by knowledgeable faculty, not teaching assistants
- Faculty that both teach courses and supervise in clinic, resulting in a smooth transition from concepts to clinical practice
- Small class size most audiology classes have 6 to 12 students
- Good camaraderie and collaboration among students and faculty
- A strong clinical emphasis and experience with a diverse patient population
- Student and faculty involvement at state and national levels

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of 100 graduate credit hours are required for degree completion.
- Typical program length is four years, including a 12-month clinical rotation during the fourth year.
- The program focuses on course work in audiology and related areas (such as pharmacology and neuroanatomy) and includes both on and off-campus clinical practicum experiences.
- During the four-year AuD program, students will
 - Accumulate clinical practicum clock hours exceeding the minimum requirement of 12 months full-time
 - o Complete a capstone doctoral project
 - o Pass a practical clinical examination during the second year
 - o Pass comprehensive written and clinical examinations during the third year

The AuD program can be tailored for students with undergraduate majors in pre-audiology, health care (such as psychology, optometry, dentistry, nursing, medicine, or pharmacy), biology, chemistry, physics, or communication disorders (speech-language pathology or speech and hearing sciences). Students with a master's degree are also welcome to apply.

We are especially interested in students with excellent academic credentials, good interpersonal and written communication skills, and a strong science background or aptitude.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Students are encouraged to become members of national professional organizations. Ball State has had a chapter of the National Association of Future Doctors of Audiology (NAFDA) that was active at the local and national levels. Since there is no longer a National NAFDA, the local chapter is now transitioning to an affiliation with the new Student Academy of Audiology (SAA). Ball State also has an active chapter of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA.)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

National professional organizations provide a wealth of information on the profession of audiology. The American Academy of Audiology (www.audiology.org), the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (www.audiology.org), and the Audiology Foundation of America (www.audfound.org) are excellent sources of information.

For additional information about Ball State University and the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology, visit the university's web page (www.bsu.edu/ spaa), or contact:

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