

2.1 Doctor of Audiology Program in Audiology

I. Program Goals

- a. Demonstrate the breadth and depth of foundational communication science, including biological, etiological, theoretical, acoustic, physiological, cognitive and psychological bases of hearing and balance.
- b. Understand and demonstrate the theoretical motivation for and practical applications of clinical reasoning for the identification, assessment, and treatment of hearing and balance disorders.
- c. Apply research analysis into evidence-based clinical decision-making and application.
- d. Effectively communicate discipline-related knowledge in oral and written modalities with families, clients, and other professionals.
- e. Understand and accommodate differences through culturally responsive practices.
- f. Exhibit attributes and abilities characteristic of competent hearing healthcare professionals who provide the diagnostic, management, and treatment services associated with the practice of audiology including accountability, integrity, adaptability, leadership, and professionalism.

II. Assumed Background

- a. To be considered for admission, all applicants must have completed or be in the process of completing a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution of higher learning. Previous academic preparation in audiology/speech-language pathology is not a requirement for admission.
- b. The AuD program assumes that students have basic coursework in the biological, physical, mathematical, and social/behavioral sciences, as shown below, by the time of graduation. In addition, students are required to have successfully completed at least a one-credit course in phonetic transcription and two courses in speech-language development/disorders to meet program graduate requirements. If this coursework was not completed at the undergraduate level prior to application, it is not required for admission and may be taken during the AuD program at the University of Memphis.
 - i. Biological Science (3)
 - ii. Mathematical Science: Statistics preferred (3)
 - iii. Physical Sciences (3)
 - iv. Behavioral Sciences (6)
 - v. Phonetic Transcription (1)
 - vi. Normal Speech-Language Development (3) Speech-Language Disorders (3)

- vii. To be counted toward the requirement, a grade of C (2.0) or better in the basic science coursework is expected. A grade of B or better is required for Phonetic Transcription.

III. General Program Requirements

- a. Students must complete a minimum of 99 credit hours and meet the academic and practicum requirements for certification in audiology. As noted above, additional course work will be required for those students without preparation in audiology/speech-language pathology.
- b. A maximum of 24 credit hours in AUSP 8104 and a maximum of 6 credit hours in AUSP 8125 may be counted toward meeting the 99-credit hour graduation requirement.
- c. Students must have at least a 3.0 average in clinic (AUSP 8104) at the end of their third year of study. Furthermore, a letter grade of 3.0 or better is required in clinic (AUSP 8104) for the two semesters prior to the clinical externship.
- d. All students must complete a capstone project. Two project tracks are available (Capstone Research Program [CRP] or Clinical Capstone Program [CCP]). Students take a minimum of 4 credit hours in AUSP 8121 (CRP) or 1 credit hour of AUSP 8121 and an approved 3-hour graduate course on Research Design and Methodology or Epidemiology (CCP).
- e. All students must successfully complete a benchmark examination.
- f. All students must successfully complete a comprehensive examination containing both written and oral components.
- g. All program requirements (i.e., benchmark exam, capstone project, oral and written comprehensive exams) must be completed prior to the clinical externship year.

IV. Academic Advisor

- a. The academic advisor is responsible for developing, with the student, a plan of study for their graduate program. The advising checklist shows all coursework (both undergraduate and graduate) that will be used to ensure completion of all academic requirements for the (1) School and (2) for national certification in the student's area of concentration. Specific degree requirements may be found in the Graduate Catalog.
- b. Students meet with their advisor each semester to determine their course assignments for the next term in accordance with their academic plan. It is the ultimate responsibility of the student to ensure that all requirements are met.

V. AuD Program Specialization Tracks: Pediatrics or Adults

- a. Audiology students at the University of Memphis have the opportunity to choose a Pediatric or Adult Audiology Specialization Track as they progress through the AuD program.

- b. Students who pursue a particular track of specialization can gain additional knowledge and experience specific to these populations. Students declare if they plan to pursue a specialization track by the end of the first year of study and should use the Audiology Specialization Track Advising Form to guide their course selections and clinical and research experiences.
- c. Requirements: Students must meet 4 of the 5 requirements listed below:
 - i. Two population-focused elective courses
 - ii. At least one assigned clinical experience in the specialization area
 - iii. At least two individual or collaborative assignments for any class aimed toward gaining expertise with the chosen population
 - iv. An original research project relevant to the chosen population to be completed over four semesters
 - v. Completion of a fourth-year externship at a site that provides at least 60% experiences with the chosen population)
 - vi. Please note that this in-house designated specialization is not equivalent to a Clinical Specialty Certification awarded by a professional certifying body, nor is it required to practice in any area within the Audiology scope of practice.

VI. Specific AuD Program Requirements

- a. The academic program requirements are listed in the on-line [Graduate Catalog](#). Additional program requirements are listed below.
- b. Capstone Project
 - i. Each student enrolled in the AuD program will be required to complete a capstone project during the second and third year of study. The results of this project will be presented, by the student, in a scheduled colloquium before the faculty. There are two options for the Capstone: 1) the Capstone Research Program (CRP), and the Clinical Capstone Project (CCP). Students choosing the CRP enroll in 4 credits of AUSD 8121. Students choosing the CCP enroll in 1 credit of AUSD 8121 and take an approved 3-hour graduate course on Research Design and Methodology or Epidemiology (following review and approval by the faculty advisor).
 - ii. Any project that uses human subjects in either a prospective or a retrospective manner will require approval from the University of Memphis Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects.
- c. Clinical Practicum
 - i. The University of Memphis provides a complete range of clinical experiences located in both onsite and offsite locations ([Appendix 5.4](#)). Some clinical traineeships require students to be present during portions of semester breaks. Students must have at least a 3.0 average in clinic (AUSD 8104) at the end of their third year of study.
 - ii. Furthermore, a letter grade of 3.0 or better is required in clinic (AUSD 8104) for the two semesters prior to the clinical externship. Students

must complete a minimum of 24 hours of 8104. Clinical competences expected by graduation can be found in [Appendix 2.1](#).

d. Benchmark Examination

i. Purpose of the Examination

1. The purpose of the benchmark examination is to provide a focal point for students to integrate the information they obtained in the first year of the program. It is designed as an oral examination to acquaint the student with this form of evaluation procedure which they will again experience in their third year of study during comprehensive examinations. Students are expected to know specifics regarding content in all areas studied and be able to relate the knowledge across courses taken during the first two semesters of the AuD program.

ii. Administration of the Examination

1. The examination committee will consist of no less than three quarters of all academic and clinical faculty. The examination will be given after the first two semesters of study. Each member of the committee will be allowed to ask questions or request clarification of an answer on any information the student should have obtained during their first two semesters of study.

iii. Grading of the Examination

1. To pass the benchmark examination, a simple majority of the attending Audiology faculty must concur that the student has demonstrated a knowledge base commensurate with the educational level at the time of the test. Determinations are made using a rubric. The student must demonstrate the ability to integrate the knowledge obtained in different classes to form a comprehensive response to academic and clinical questions. If the student does not obtain a passing vote, a remediation program will be provided for the student and a Clinic Academic Support Plan ([CIASP form](#)) will be completed for the student. The remediation program and successful completion of the examination must be completed prior to enrollment in the fifth semester. Failure of the student to pass the examination on the second attempt will be cause for dismissal from the program.

e. Comprehensive Examination

i. Purpose of the Examination

1. Adequate performance in academic coursework is a prerequisite for graduation; however, it is also essential that students demonstrate an ability to retain, integrate, and apply the knowledge gained throughout the program. The

comprehensive examination is an opportunity for faculty to evaluate students' abilities to integrate the academic and clinical information obtained during the program and to communicate their theoretical and applied knowledge at high levels of written and oral ability. To achieve these educational objectives, the exam is designed to assess complex understanding of skills and abilities beyond simple recollection and application of individual course content and includes both written and oral components.

ii. Administration of the Examination

1. The AuD Comprehensive examination is composed of written and oral portions. The written comprehensive exam is taken at the end of the student's 5th semester. The oral exam is taken in the 8th semester. Both the written and oral examination must be successfully completed before entering the externship portion of the program. The written comprehensive examination is divided loosely into 3 general conceptual areas: (1) basic science (e.g., anatomy and physiology, psychoacoustics, and electrophysiology); (2) diagnostics (e.g., basic concepts of audiometry, diagnostic and medical audiology, vestibular and pediatric assessment), and (3) management (e.g., audiologic habilitation and rehabilitation, hearing aids and other devices). Students write for approximately 3 hours in each of the 3 general areas. Each conceptual area will be covered on a separate day of the examination. The time allotments for each area are shared with students prior to the examination in ample time to modify study plans.

iii. Grading of the Written Comprehensive Examination

1. Students must pass 100% of the topic areas on the written comprehensive examination (including any rewrites). The written comprehensive examination consists of two stages: (1) Written comps where the student answers questions on topic areas covered in courses taken to date as outlined above and (2) Rewrites where the student retakes portions of the exam in the topic areas that were not passed from the original written exam. The questions in the topic areas for rewrites may be different than the original questions.
2. The student must pass 50% of the original written exam to be eligible to take rewrites. If the student does not pass 50% of the original written exam, the audiology faculty will meet to determine if the student has sufficient knowledge to move on to rewrites. If the majority of the faculty feel the student has sufficient deficiencies in their knowledge, the student will not

be eligible to take rewrites and must retake the written exam when it is offered.

3. Students who do not pass 100% of the written comprehensive examination (including rewrites) are not eligible to take the final oral exam and must retake the written comprehensive examination when it is offered. A CIASP form will be completed containing a remediation plan for any student who fails to successfully complete the examination. The entire examination may only be repeated once.
4. Failure to pass a second written examination will result in dismissal from the program.
Each question on the written examination will be scored using a rubric by the principal faculty member generating the question.
5. The student should pay particular attention to these topic areas in preparation for the oral examination.
6. If a student has not successfully completed the written examination, they may still present their capstone project with their class. Once the written exam is retaken, the oral exam will be scheduled within 3 weeks of successful completion of the written re-examination.

f. Final Oral Comprehensive Examination

i. Purpose of the Examination

1. The final oral comprehensive examination is an opportunity for students to integrate the academic and clinical information obtained during the program and discuss theoretical and applied information in a scholarly manner.

ii. Administration of the Examination

1. The Final Oral Comprehensive Examination is taken in the third year (in semester 8) and serves as a culminating experience for the academic portion of the program. The exam is divided into three general topic areas: Diagnostics, Special Testing, and Management, with two or more faculty assessing competence in each area. Students may be asked questions covering any area related to audiology and audiologic practice. Students will also be asked specific questions pertaining to topic areas taken in the third year that were not covered during the written comprehensive examination.
2. The final oral exam is linked to the written exam that was taken at the end of the second year. Students are strongly encouraged, even if they passed the content area, to review the comments made on the written examination and clarify any misconceptions through additional readings and discussions with the professors in those areas.

iii. Grading the Examination

1. To pass the final oral examination, students must pass each of the 3 topic areas. To pass a topic area, a simple majority of the attending faculty assessors must concur that the student is sufficiently knowledgeable of the field of audiology in that topic to begin the clinical externship year. Performance will be assessed using a rubric. Both the written and oral examinations must be completed successfully before entering the clinical externship year.
2. Students must pass 100% of the topic areas on the oral comprehensive examination (including any reattempts). The student must pass at least one topic from the primary attempt to be eligible for a second attempt. If the student does not pass at least one of the original written exam topics, the audiology faculty will meet to determine if the student has sufficient knowledge to move on for a reattempt or if there were extenuating circumstances. If the majority of the faculty feel the student has sufficient deficiencies in their knowledge, the student will not be eligible for a second attempt and must retake the oral exam when it is next offered.
3. If the faculty determines the student is eligible for a second attempt, a CIASP form will be completed containing a remediation plan for the student to follow. At the end of the remediation period, the student retakes any topic areas that were not passed from the original oral exam. The questions in the topic areas for the second attempt may be different than the original questions.
4. Students who do not pass 100% of the oral comprehensive examination (including a re-attempt) are not eligible to enter their clinical externship year and must take the final oral exam when it is next offered. A CIASP form will be completed containing a remediation plan for any student who fails to successfully complete the examination. The entire examination may only be repeated once. Failure to pass a second oral examination will result in dismissal from the program.

VII. Retention Requirements

- a. All students enrolled in the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders are expected to attain high academic achievement in all courses taken. In addition to Graduate School policy, the criteria listed below will be used to determine the retention status of students enrolled in the School.

- b. Grades of less than 2.00 in a required course are considered unacceptable. These courses must be repeated with a minimum grade of 2.00 to meet graduation requirements.
- c. A student may count two grades of 2.00 toward their degree. Students have the option of repeating two courses in which a grade of 2.00 or less was earned. The student will be dismissed at the end of the semester in which a third grade of 2.00 or less has been earned.
- d. Students are expected to maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 at the end of each semester of enrollment at the University of Memphis. A GPA below 3.00 across two consecutive semesters may be grounds for dismissal.
- e. Students may be dismissed for any of the following:
 - i. Failure to maintain appropriate standards of academic integrity or CSD Policies.
 - ii. Failure to follow the ASHA and AAA Codes of Ethics.
 - iii. Failure to follow HIPAA guidelines.
 - iv. Failure to achieve competency as specified in [CSD Policy Number 503](#).
 - v. A grade of less than 2.00 in clinic practicum will mandate a review within the School and may be grounds for dismissal.
 - vi. Failure to pass the qualifying examination.
 - vii. Failure to pass the written and oral components of the comprehensive examination.

VIII. Externship in Audiology

- a. All students will complete an externship during the fourth year of the program, which is consistent with current accreditation requirements. To be eligible for the externship the student must have completed all academic coursework, including the research project, and successfully passed the benchmark and comprehensive examinations.
- b. Externship placement is obtained in coordination with the Director of Clinical Education in Audiology.
- c. Successful completion of the externship must include the approval of the Director of Clinical Education in Audiology.
- d. The externship should provide a comprehensive training environment for students to expand and sharpen their clinical skills.
- e. Externships may be in either paid or unpaid positions.