

# Audiology Fast Facts

**About Audiologists:** An audiologist is a highly trained health care professional, specializing in audiology and vestibular disorders. Audiologists are university-educated and licensed to specifically prevent, 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 audiology evaluations including tests of hearing sensitivity, speech understanding, middle ear function, inner ear and auditory nerve function
- Diagnostic evaluations to identify balance/dizziness disorders
- Identification and referrals of auditory and vestibular conditions requiring further diagnostic testing
- Auditory processing evaluations
- Design, 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
- Removal of cerumen and foreign bodies from the ear
- Cerumen (earwax) 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.

## 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](http://www.audiologist.org).

## About the Kentucky Academy of Audiology:

The [Kentucky Academy of Audiology](http://www.kyaudio.org) (KAA) is a professional organization dedicated to advancing hearing and balance care across Kentucky through advocacy, education, public awareness, and research. For more information, visit [www.kyaudio.org](http://www.kyaudio.org).

