Audiology is the science of hearing, balance, and related disorders. Audiologists provide patient-centered care in the prevention, identification, diagnosis, and treatment of hearing, balance, and other auditory disorders. From the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

**Trends**

The number of available positions for audiologists is expected to grow by 34% by 2022, which is much faster than average for all fields. The anticipated growth in the field is largely attributed to the growing population of elderly individuals at risk for health conditions that affect speech or language. Many audiologists work in hospitals, doctor’s offices, and other healthcare facilities; some audiologists work in schools.

**Education & Training**

Most audiologists have a doctoral degree (an Au.D.), which is often required for state licensure. The Au.D. degree often includes courses in the biological sciences, diagnosis, treatment, ethics, and pharmacology, followed by substantial clinical practice.

Many states have continuing education requirements for licensure renewal.

**Tips for Breaking In**

- Gain experience in the field through volunteering, job shadowing, and research
- Develop strong communication skills
- Maintain good grades to qualify for graduate programs
- Research graduate school programs to learn what is expected and needed to get into the field
- Become familiar with state licensing requirements

**Licenses & Certifications**

All states require audiologists to be licensed in order to practice in the field. Licensure typically requires a doctoral degree in the field, a number of hours of practice, and passing scores on an exam. In North Carolina, audiologists must have a doctoral degree, 1,800 hours of supervised clinical experience, and a passing score on the National Teacher’s Examination in Audiology.

**Earnings**

The average salary (2014) for audiologists was $73,060. Most audiologists work full-time, although some work part-time or on a contract basis.

**Types of Employers**

- Schools
- Public Health Departments
- Private and Group Practice
- Corporations
- Government
- Rehabilitation Offices
- Hospitals
- Research Agencies
- Colleges and Universities
- Industrial Audiology
- Military

**Example Employers**

- U.S. Military
- Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
- Carolinas Medical Center
- Novant Health
- National Institutes of Health
- Bell Laboratories
- PPR Education Services
- Jackson Therapy Partners
- Willow Ridge Rehabilitation & Living Center

**Desirable Qualities, Interests, and Skills**

- Strong communication (both verbal and written) skills
- Ability to work with patients and healthcare professionals
- Compassion and sensitivity to patient needs
- Ability to approach problems with objectivity
- Willingness to keep up with the latest diagnostic and treatment technologies
- Must be able to maintain strong records, which are used in diagnosis and a tool to measure progress
- Affinity for the sciences

**Websites**

- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association | [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org)
- National Student Speech Language Hearing Association | [www.asha.org/nsslha](http://www.asha.org/nsslha)
- North Carolina Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists | [www.ncboeslpa.org](http://www.ncboeslpa.org)
- American Academy of Audiology | [www.audiology.org](http://www.audiology.org)
- American Academy of Private Practice in Speech Pathology and Audiology | [www.aappsapa.org](http://www.aappsapa.org)

**Sample Job Titles**

- Audiologist
- Travel Audiologist
- Licensed Audiologist/Hearing Instrument Specialist
- Clinical Audiologist
- Diverse Audiologist
- Clinical Dispensing Audiologist
- Rehabilitation Therapist
- Pediatric Audiologist
- Contract Audiologist