

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
Department of Speech and Hearing Science

The Doctor of Audiology Curriculum

The Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) is a four-year post-baccalaureate degree that emphasizes the application of basic science and technology and provides advanced professional training for the diagnosis and habilitation/rehabilitation of hearing disorders and related communication and educational disorders, as well as the scholarly study of professional practice-centered problems.

Years One and Two: The first two years of the program emphasize didactic courses and include direct clinical experience. During this time students will explore topics, identify an adviser, and prepare a prospectus for their Capstone Project. Students will take the Preliminary Examination by the end of the spring semester of the second year (defense of the prospectus for the Capstone Project). The Comprehensive Examination (a written qualifying exam) is typically taken during the summer after two years of the program.

Year Three: The third year typically involves didactic coursework and clinical experience, as well as completion of the Capstone Project. The Final Examination (defense of the Capstone Project) should be completed by the end of the third year.

Year Four: The fourth year will involve full-time clinical externship.

A minimum of 112 semester hours are required by the program. Didactic course work requires 72 credit hours, with required courses comprising 60 hours, and an additional 12 to 16 hours of electives/specialty emphasis. No less than 10 and no more than 16 semester hours of credit for the Capstone Project and no less than 30 and no more than 36 credit hours of clinical experience may be counted toward the 112 required hours for the degree.

Curriculum Structure and Design

Stages of the Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.)

Doctoral degrees at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign involve three stages.

Stage I of the Au.D. is comprised of the first two years of didactic coursework and direct clinical experience as well as the Preliminary Examination. **Stage II** of the Au.D begins with completion of the written Comprehensive Examination and involves additional coursework and clinical experience. **Stage III** typically involves coursework and clinical experience as well as completion of the Capstone Project and the Final Examination during the third year followed by the fourth year full-time clinical externship.

Individual study plan

Throughout the four-year Au.D. program, each student develops an individual study plan with faculty advisement. The study plan generally includes required courses, elective courses, potential sites for clinical externships, the plan for the Capstone Project, and possibilities for the fourth-year full-time clinical externship.

List of SHS departmental core courses (minimum: 52 hours)

Didactic training addresses normal processes in hearing, speech, and language, disorders of the auditory, balance, and related communication systems, behavioral and electrophysiologic assessment of auditory function, empirically-supported intervention strategies, multicultural and age-span influences on communication and communication disorders as well as the design and implementation of culturally-, linguistically-, and age- appropriate services, and prevention of auditory, balance, and related communication disorders. Departmental core courses include (listed by course number and alphabetically):

SHS	121 <i>American Sign Language I</i>
SHS	540 <i>Psychoacoustics</i>
SHS	541 <i>Clinical Auditory Anatomy and Physiology</i>
SHS	550 <i>Assessment of Audition and Auditory Disorders</i>
SHS	551 <i>Electrophysiologic Indices of Audition</i>
SHS	552 <i>Diagnosis of Hearing Impairment in Infants and Young Children</i>
SHS	553 <i>Hearing Aids and Amplification</i>
SHS	554 <i>Advanced Audiological Assessment</i>
SHS	556 <i>Sensory Prosthetic Devices for Individuals with Hearing Loss</i>
SHS	558 <i>Tinnitus</i>
SHS	560 <i>Audiological Assessment Laboratory</i>
SHS	563 <i>Amplification Laboratory</i>
SHS	572 <i>Counseling in Communication Disorders</i>
SHS	579 <i>Professional Ethics Legal Issues AuD/SLP</i>
SHS	580 <i>Cochlear Implants</i>
SHS	593 <i>Auditory Processing Disorders</i>
SHS	593 <i>Educational Audiology</i>
SHS	593 <i>Hearing Conservation Programs</i>
SHS	593 <i>Medical Audiology</i>
SHS	593 <i>Vestibular Assessment and Management</i>

All of these courses carry 4 semester hours credit except for SHS 579, which carries 3 credits, and SHS 560, SHS 563, SHS 572, SHS 593 Auditory Processing Disorders, SHS 593 Educational Audiology, and SHS 593 Hearing Conservation Programs, each of which carries 2 semester hours credit.

All of these courses are required in the Au.D. curriculum with the exception of SHS 121 *American Sign Language I* which is taken only if the student cannot demonstrate a minimum level of proficiency in manual communication. As a result, SHS 121 is not included in the minimum 52 semester hours for SHS core courses.

List of Research core courses (minimum: 8 Hours)

The research core curriculum includes graduate courses in statistics and research methodologies in the discipline. As indicated below, students are required to take one graduate level statistics course, as well SHS 570 and SHS 592.

SHS 570 *Quantitative Reasoning in Speech and Hearing Science*
SHS 592 *Proseminar in Speech and Hearing Science*

Choose one of the courses below, or an approved alternative:

EPSY 580 *Statistical Methods in Education* or
PSYC 406 *Statistical Methods I*

The statistics courses and SHS 570 currently each carry 4 hours credit.

All Au.D. students must register for SHS 592 *Proseminar in Speech and Hearing Science* for 0 hours credit for fall and spring semester of their first year.

Course Credit for Capstone Project (minimum: 10 hours/maximum: 16 hours)

The Capstone Project includes enrolling in graduate credit special problems (independent study) or thesis research credit. Registration for the Capstone Project is a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 16 hours of credit of special problems independent research. Students will receive a letter grade for each semester that they are enrolled in special problems independent research in support of the Capstone Project (no deferred “DFR” grades will be given).

SHS 593 *Special Problems*, or
SHS 599 *Thesis Research*

Clinical Experience (minimum: 30 Hours/maximum: 36 Hours)

Direct clinical experience provides mentored hands-on experience in the delivery of empirically supported diagnostic techniques and interventions to a broad range of patient populations. Students engage in on-campus and off-campus clinical experiences throughout their first three years to ensure breadth of clinical experience. First-year students complete their clinical experience on campus at the Department’s Audiology Clinic, under the mentorship of program faculty. Beginning in the summer following the first year and during the second year, successful students continue in the Department’s Audiology Clinic but also participate in a number of external (off-campus) placements in Champaign and surrounding communities. During the third year students participate in a number of external placements with the possibility of continuing in the Department’s Audiology Clinic. External placements in Chicago, St. Louis, and other communities are also possible during the first, second, and third years. During the fourth year, students carry out mentored, full-time extended externships in one or more locations.

SHS	<i>557 Advanced Clinical Practicum in Audiological Assessment and (Re)habilitation</i>
Sections	A or B (assessment) R (rehabilitation) E or F (external)

Examples of elective courses (minimum: 12 to 16 Hours)

Students are required to complete 4 elective courses for graduate credit. Each course provides 3 to 4 hours of credit, resulting in a minimum of 12 to 16 semester hours of elective credits. Elective coursework allows opportunities for students to pursue particular areas of academic and clinical interest. Students may take appropriate elective coursework in the Department of Speech and Hearing Science and other departments at the University of Illinois. The electives must be part of the individual study plan and must be approved by the student's graduate advisor. Some examples of possible elective courses are given below:

SHS	<i>430 Development and Disorders of Phonology and Articulation</i>
SHS	<i>520 Language Science</i>
SHS	<i>534 Aphasia and Related Disorders</i>
SHS	<i>470 Neural Bases of Speech and Language</i>
CHLH	<i>410 Public Health Practice</i>
CHLH	<i>455 Health Services Financing</i>
CHLH	<i>456 The Organization of Health Care</i>
CHLH	<i>458 Health Administration</i>
REHB	<i>401 Introduction to Rehabilitation</i>
REHB	<i>402 Medical Aspects of Disability</i>
PSYC	<i>404 Cognitive Neuroscience</i>
BADM	<i>446 Entrepreneurship: Small Business Formation</i>

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