

Audiologist

Test hearing and balance, then fit the devices that give it back. A four-year clinical doctorate, and a job in every town.

TYPICAL PAY

\$95,780

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$65k to \$133k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

8 to 9 years

after high school

DEMAND

Very high

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Hospitals, private practices, ear nose and throat clinics, schools

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Biology, physics and any speech or psychology course. Sound is physics, and the ear is biology.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 4 years
Communication sciences and disorders is the usual major, but the doctorate accepts any bachelor's degree if you cover the prerequisite courses.
- 3 Doctor of Audiology** 4 years
Four years at a program accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. Classes and clinic from the first year.
- 4 Clinical externship year** 12 months
The fourth year is full-time supervised practice at a hospital, clinic or veterans center.
- 5 Exam, license and certification** Final months
Pass the Praxis Examination in Audiology, get your state license, and optionally add the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology.

Pros and cons

- + You give people back something they thought was gone
- + Predictable weekday hours, almost no nights
- + Hiring is growing fast as the population ages
- Eight or nine years and large student loans
- Private practice mixes clinical care with selling devices
- Insurance often will not pay for hearing aids, and patients take it out on you

Good to know

Millions of people who need hearing aids do not use them

The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders estimates about 28.8 million American adults could benefit from hearing aids, but among people over 70 who could benefit, only...

Babies are tested before they leave the hospital

Newborn hearing screening is routine across the United States, and about 2 to 3 of every 1,000 babies are born with detectable hearing loss in one or both ears. Catching it in the first months changes how...

Optional boosts

Cochlear implants. Vestibular and balance testing. Pediatric audiology. Tinnitus management.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Audiologists (29-1181.00)

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association: audiology certification standards

American Academy of Audiology

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders: hearing statistics

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/audiologist>



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