



**PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS**

**DOCTOR OF AUDIOLOGY PROGRAM**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH, LANGUAGE & HEARING SCIENCES**

## **Welcome**

Congratulations on your decision to pursue a career in audiology! This is an exciting time for you to be thinking about the future. Audiology is a rich and rewarding field. Audiologists work with patients of all ages and their families as hearing and balance healthcare providers in a variety of settings. The University of Connecticut is dedicated to educating students in the science and practice of audiology. Academic courses and clinical education experiences encourage a theoretical perspective and experimental orientation to develop an appreciation of current knowledge, future research needs, and the implementation of evidence based practice.

### **The UCONN Experience**

The University of Connecticut has a long and distinguished history of clinical service and research for individuals with hearing and balance disorders and is the flagship program for audiology in New England. The program at UCONN offers diagnostic and rehabilitative services to a varied clinical population, has extensive research facilities, and serves as a resource for audiologists around the state and the nation. Our faculty have strong foundations in both clinical services and applied research. Our faculty also have interdisciplinary collaborations with the Departments of Psychology, Neuroscience, Otolaryngology (UCHC), and the Brain Imaging Research Center (BIRC) that broaden the scope of the clinical and research experiences of our students. The faculty is also strongly committed to an open, supportive learning environment for all our students.

### **The Program at a Glance**

The Doctor of Audiology degree is a four-year post-baccalaureate program that includes three years of course work and clinical experiences plus a one-year equivalent full-time residency. Our program successfully prepares graduates to excel clinically and to fulfill the requirements brought on by the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CAPSD). The program in audiology allows students to meet all academic and clinical practicum requirements for the American Speech, Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) and the State of Connecticut's requirements for licensure in audiology. It is expected that students will earn a minimum of 1820 clinical hours during full-time enrollment in the graduate program. A part-time option is not available at this time except in extenuating circumstances and with full approval of the faculty. Our students have had a 100% employment rate and 100% Praxis pass rate for the last five years.

As you consider your options for graduate education in audiology, I sincerely hope that you will consider UCONN's unique combination of strong academic training and excellent clinical opportunities.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Cienkowski, Ph.D.  
Program Director of Audiology

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## Learning Environment

### Statement on Non-discrimination

The University of Connecticut does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, disability, genetic information, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, veteran status, marital status or other legally protected characteristics in all programs and activities and supports all state and federal laws that promote equal opportunity and prohibit discrimination, including the provision of reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities.

### Students with Disabilities

Through the integration of teaching, research, and service, it is the mission of the University of Connecticut to provide an outstanding educational experience for each student. The mission of the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) is to enhance this experience for students with disabilities. The Center goal is to ensure a comprehensively accessible University experience where individuals with disabilities have the same access to programs, opportunities and activities as all others. We encourage you to take advantage of these services. Students needing accommodation should visit the CDS website at [www.csd.uconn.edu](http://www.csd.uconn.edu)

### Cultural Centers

There are various cultural centers on campus that may be used to enhance the quality of life for students from diverse backgrounds and work to raise the level of awareness of ethnic culture and history within the University community.

- African American Cultural Center: 486-3433 ([www.aacc.uconn.edu](http://www.aacc.uconn.edu))
- Asian American Cultural Center: 486-0830 ([www.asacc.uconn.edu](http://www.asacc.uconn.edu))
- Puerto-Rican/Latin American Cultural Center: 486-1135 ([www.latino.uconn.edu](http://www.latino.uconn.edu))
- Rainbow Center: 486-5821 ([www.rainbowcenter.uconn.edu](http://www.rainbowcenter.uconn.edu))
- Women's Center: 486-4738. ([www.womenscenter.uconn.edu](http://www.womenscenter.uconn.edu))

### Student Organizations

- The National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (**NSSLHA**) is a national organization for graduate and undergraduate students interested in the study of normal and disordered human communication. Visit the national page for NSSLHA, [www.nsslha.org/nsslha/](http://www.nsslha.org/nsslha/), for information about membership and local activities.
- The Student Academy of Audiology (**SAA**) is the national student organization of the American Academy of Audiology that serves as a collective voice for students and advances the rights, interests, and welfare of students pursuing careers in audiology. The SAA introduces students to lifelong involvement in activities that promote and advance the profession of audiology, and provides services, information, education, representation and advocacy for the profession and the public we serve. For more information visit: [www.audiology.org/education/students/SAA](http://www.audiology.org/education/students/SAA).

## Academic Progress

### Program of Study

The key objective of the professional doctorate is to prepare the University of Connecticut students to enter competitively the field of Audiology. The Au.D. Doctor of Audiology, is a four year post-baccalaureate professional degree. This entry-level doctorate will provide an academic and clinical education that will meet the demands of a quickly changing, technology driven and publicly demanding era of Audiology. The Au.D. program will meet these challenges by providing state of the art clinical and academic experiences that thoroughly cover the assessment and management of a wide array of auditory disorders for all ages in a variety of settings (medical, educational, industrial). The curriculum at a glance is shown below.

	Course Number	Fall Term	Course Number	Spring Term
Year 1	5351	Amplification I	5321	Otologic Bases of Hearing Loss
	5354	Psychological Acoustics	5362	Speech Perception
	5356	Audiologic Assessment	5373	Pediatric Audiology
	5375	Anatomy & Physiology	6401	Amplification II
	5337	Clinical Practicum	5337	Clinical Practicum
	6367	Intro Clinical Topics	6367	Intro Clinical Topics
				Summer Term
			5324	Counseling for Persons w/HL
	Course Number	Fall Term	Course Number	Spring Term
Year 2	5322	Electrophysiology I	5344	Pediatric Rehabilitative Audiology
	5323	Geriatric Audiology	5372	Central Auditory Processing
	5325	Adult Aural Rehab	6369	Cochlear Implants
	5337	Clinical Practicum	5337	Clinical Practicum
	6367	Intermed Clinical Topics	6367	Intermed Clinical Topics
	6367	Capstone Research Meth		
				Summer Term
			5337 6319	Clinical Practicum Capstone Research
	Course Number	Fall Term	Course Number	Spring Term
Year 3	5309	Statistics	5369	Electrophysiology. II
	5326	Professional Issues	6402	Hearing Conservation
	6319	Capstone Research	6319	Capstone Research
	6410	Vestibular System	5337	Clinical Practicum
	5337	Clinical Practicum	6367	Adv Clinical Topics
	6367	Adv Clinical Topics	XX	Elective
				Summer Term
				4 <sup>th</sup> Externship begins
	Course Number	Fall Term	Course Number	Spring Term
Year 4	6930	4 <sup>th</sup> Year Externship	6930	4 <sup>th</sup> Year Externship

## **Advising Team**

Each student is assigned an advising team upon entrance to the program. The purpose of the team is to provide guidance and support to assure student success. The team consists of a major academic advisor, two associate advisors, and a clinical advisor. Students have the opportunity to meet with members of their academic team throughout the year to monitor their progress within the Au.D. program.

## **Qualifying Exams**

Students must pass comprehensive qualifying examinations to successfully complete the program and to be eligible for the 4<sup>th</sup> year externship. Students must be in good standing in the Au.D program (3.0 or better academic GPA and “B” or better performance in clinical practicum) to be eligible to take the exams. The purpose of the qualifying exam is to determine mastery of foundational concepts and to assess if students are able to integrate curricular information in the assessment and treatment of clinic cases. Qualifying exams are administered at two points in the academic program following the completion of the first and third years of the program.

## **Capstone Project**

Successful completion of a prepared project that is comprehensive in nature is required of all Au.D. students. The purpose of this project is several fold: 1) to assure that the student integrates academic and clinical material learned throughout the program, 2) to prepare the student with strategies for professional leadership, and 3) to encourage the student to actively engage in clinical research after graduation. Students are required to prepare a research project on a topic related to their plans of study. The student along with the research advisor will decide upon a research project topic. Some of the topics could involve data collection, projects regarding instrumentation (eg., reliability studies), limited data collection on normal subjects, single subject studies of patients with disorders, survey tools or analysis of existing data previously collected (eg., database or retrospective study) or an evidence-based practice review.

## **Knowledge and Skills Assessment (KASA)**

Students in the Au.D. program must complete a program of study that includes didactic knowledge and supervised clinical experiences sufficient in breadth and depth to achieve the knowledge and skills outcomes that are consistent with Audiology Certification Standard IV of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. The six broad areas of Standard IV include foundations of practice, prevention/identification, assessment, (re)habilitation, advocacy/consultation, and education/research/administration. The standards can be accessed at [Audiology-Certification-Standards](#). Acquired knowledge and developed skills will be evaluated through formative and summative assessments. Formative assessments are conducted in each course, with ASHA standards covered in the class and evidence to be collected in each class showing achievement of target competencies, identified in the syllabus introduction of each course. As summative assessments, each student is required to pass qualifying comprehensive exams at the end of the first and third years.

## **Clinical Experiences for the Au.D. Student**

Students are introduced to clinical practice at the University of Connecticut Speech & Hearing Clinic located on the Storrs Campus beginning in their first semester. Our clinic operates year round and serves pediatrics through geriatrics in an outpatient setting and includes diagnostic evaluations, central auditory processing evaluations, electrophysiologic testing, and treatment services. Students also have the opportunity to participate directly in a variety of hearing screening opportunities both on and off campus (Head Start, UConn Music Students, UConn Health Fairs). Designated times are available weekly to practice in the clinic on your own or to complete assigned labs.

Students typically begin working with patients on a more regular basis from the second semester through their third year, including summer rotations. After successfully completing several on-campus rotations, students will move to contracted off-campus sites where they will be under the direction of Licensed Audiologists in a variety of settings. From our campus, we have access to a diverse group of placements where our students are regularly placed and are within about an hour's drive of our campus or their residence. Frequent hospital practicum sites include: Lawrence & Memorial Hospital, Yale New Haven Hospital, Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Women's and Infants Hospital of Rhode Island, UMass Memorial Hospital, Baystate Medical Center and VA Hospitals in RI, CT and MA. Options also include well-known Birth to Three/Educational/Rehabilitation centers such as Soundbridge and New England Center for Hearing and Rehabilitation and a variety of private ENT offices and private Audiology practices in the CT, MA and RI areas.

During the final year of the AuD program students complete a 4<sup>th</sup> year externship. The externship is an intensive experience that builds upon academic and pre-externship clinical education in patient-centered care, evidence-based contemporary practices, and critical evaluation of research literature. Recent externships for our students have included the Veteran's Administration, National Center for Auditory and Rehabilitation Research, CREC Soundbridge, and New England Center for Hearing and Rehabilitation. Externships are offered competitively around the country.

## **Financial Assistance**

Many students cite financial concerns during their Au.D. program. You may find it beneficial to investigate a variety of funding options. Funding for graduate students may include scholarships, loans, grants and work-study. A general resource designed to help assist you as you explore the various options is: <http://www.asha.org/students/financial-aid/>. Information on tuition rates can be found at: <http://www.bursar.uconn.edu/html/grad.html>. In addition, many faculty members in the department receive research or training grants from a variety of funding sources. Please contact the department for information on available funding opportunities.