



www.studentacademyofaudiology.org

# FAQs

The Student Academy of Audiology (SAA) Task Force is pleased to provide these FAQs regarding the newly formed SAA. We hope that you find this information to be helpful to your chapter. Please feel free to contact Task Force co-chairs or Academy staff for assistance.

## SAA Task Force Members

### *Co-Chairs*

- Carmen Brewer (*email: [brewerc@nidcd.nih.gov](mailto:brewerc@nidcd.nih.gov)*)
- Alison Grimes (*Past President; email: [agrimes@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:agrimes@mednet.ucla.edu)*)
- Gary Jacobson (*Board of Directors; email: [gary.jacobson@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:gary.jacobson@vanderbilt.edu)*)

### *Members of Academy Board of Directors, Academy Committees, AuD/PhD University Programs, and Audiology Practices*

- Jessica Barrett
- Jim Beauchamp
- Carol Cokely
- Rebekah Cunningham
- Kris English (*President-Elect*)
- Tish Gaffney
- Jacque Georgeson
- Caroline Roberts
- Jack Roush
- Gail Whitelaw
- Christie Yoshinaga-Itano

### *Doctoral Students and First SAA Board of Directors*

- Jacki Baudhuin
- Cherysse Lanns (*past NAFDA, now SAA Secretary*)
- Denise Nicholson
- Erin Piker
- Linnea Schrowang (*past NAFDA, now SAA Vice President*)
- Jamie Sklarski (*past NAFDA, now SAA Treasurer*)
- Brian Vesely (*past NAFDA, now SAA President*)

### *American Academy of Audiology Staff*

- Victoria Keetay (*Senior Director of Education; email: [vkeetay@audiology.org](mailto:vkeetay@audiology.org)*)
- Ed Sullivan (*Deputy Executive Director; email: [esullivan@audiology.org](mailto:esullivan@audiology.org)*)

## SAA's Purpose, Mission, Vision, and Primary Goal

### *What is the SAA?*

The Student Academy of Audiology (SAA) is the national student organization of the American Academy of Audiology.

### *Why was the SAA created?*

The SAA was created to provide an early linkage between students and their future professional home and discipline. Most professional organizations sponsor a student organization.

### *What is the mission of the SAA?*

The SAA serves as a collective voice for students and advances the rights, interests, and welfare of students pursuing careers in audiology and related disciplines. The SAA introduces students to lifelong involvement in activities that promote the audiology profession and that provide services, information, education, representation, and advocacy for the profession and to consumers of audiology services.

### *What is the vision of the SAA?*

The vision of the SAA is to support students at the local and national levels as they prepare to become audiology professionals

### *What is the goal of the SAA?*

The primary goal of the SAA is to provide students with opportunities for information, resources, leadership, mentorship, and student-to-student networking as they progress through their educational programs and transition to professional status. Additional goals may be added as the SAA develops.

## NAFDA's Merger with SAA

### *Why did NAFDA decide to merge with the SAA?*

After careful review, the leadership of both the American Academy of Audiology and the National Association of Future Doctors of Audiology concluded that merger was in the best interest of current and future audiology students, and the profession of audiology as a whole. The merger will provide students with more resources, better continuity from year to year, and additional member benefits.

### *Does this mean NAFDA no longer exists?*

Yes. NAFDA was officially terminated through the appropriate legal process.

### *When did the merger occur?*

The merger was completed in January 2009.

## SAA Membership

### *How do current student members of the American Academy of Audiology become SAA members?*

All current student members of the Academy are automatically members of the SAA. SAA membership certificates and information will be provided.

### *Can graduate students who are not currently student members of the American Academy of Audiology join the SAA?*

Yes. All AuD students, PhD students, and other doctoral students in hearing science and related disciplines who are not currently student members of the Academy will be invited and encouraged to join the SAA. Visit [www.StudentAcademyofAudiology.org](http://www.StudentAcademyofAudiology.org) for more information.

### *Can undergraduate students be members of the SAA?*

No. SAA membership is limited to doctoral students in audiology and related disciplines. However, SAA chapters can encourage interested undergraduates by including them in local functions. SAA chapters may also establish an associate membership category at the local, chapter level for undergraduate students in audiology and related disciplines, if they choose to do so. Undergraduate students who participate in SAA chapters, however, are not members of the national SAA.

### *What are the dues to be a member of the SAA?*

Dues for the national SAA are currently \$55, the same as they are currently for student membership in the American Academy of Audiology. Local SAA chapters will be free to decide local dues.

### *What are the tangible benefits students will receive by being members of the SAA?*

Some of the tangible benefits of SAA membership include:

- A subscription to the *Journal of the American Academy of Audiology (JAAA)*, the Academy's research journal;
- A subscription to *Audiology Today (AT)*, the Academy's bi-monthly (six times per year) magazine;
- A subscription to *AT Extra*, the Academy's e-newsletter;
- Student rates for attendance at *AudiologyNOW!*<sup>®</sup>, the Academy's premiere national convention;
- Opportunities to participate in a comprehensive student track and other student activities at *AudiologyNOW!*<sup>®</sup>;
- Access to the Externship Registry<sup>®</sup>, the Academy's list of sites available to 4<sup>th</sup>-year audiology externs;
- Access to *HearCareers*<sup>®</sup>, the Academy's employment services program;

- Access to a dedicated SAA Web site;
- Access to members-only areas on both the Academy and SAA Web sites.

***What are the intangible benefits students will receive?***

The most valuable intangible benefit of SAA membership is the voice given to students through participation in activities of the American Academy of Audiology. This includes representation on Academy committees and task forces and the opportunity for the SAA President to attend the Academy's Board of Directors meetings.

**Establishing a Local SAA Chapter**

***What are the benefits of forming a local SAA chapter?***

One of the most important benefits of forming a local SAA chapter is the opportunity chapters provide for students to interact with their classmates, within and among class cohorts (e.g., first-year students, second-year students, etc.). Local chapters can also provide opportunities for a richer student life through mentorship, educational experiences outside the classroom, community involvement, and humanitarian efforts.

***What are the requirements to establish a local SAA chapter?***

Minimum requirements for by-laws of each chapter are being established by the national SAA. The American Academy of Audiology recognizes, however, that universities will differ in their requirements for approving an SAA chapter on campus. Local chapters must follow guidelines for student organizations at their universities.

***How do we find out what our university's requirements are for starting a new student organization?***

Most universities have an office of student affairs that can provide this information. Consult your university's directory, Web site, faculty, and staff for guidance.

***Are local SAA chapters required to have a faculty advisor?***

Yes.

***Can a university have a local SAA chapter without being affiliated with the national SAA?***

No.

***Can students join a local SAA chapter without being members of the national SAA?***

No.

***How will the SAA assist our University in establishing a local SAA chapter?***

The national SAA will communicate with university programs to facilitate this process. The American Academy of Audiology's Web site will provide guidelines and contacts for assistance in establishing a local SAA chapter.

### Other Audiology Student Organizations

*Can a university have an SAA chapter if they already have another audiology student organization?*

Yes. Student organizations and affiliations are determined by students, their faculty advisors, and their universities. We encourage the formation of SAA chapters at all universities that offer doctoral training in audiology.

*If we belonged to a former NAFDA chapter and want to form a local SAA chapter, what is the timeline for doing so?*

There is no set timeline. Students can form local SAA chapters at any time.

*Are students who belonged to former NAFDA chapters required to form an SAA chapter?*

No.

*Can we establish an SAA chapter if we didn't already have a NAFDA chapter?*

Yes.

### SAA Governance

*How will the SAA be governed and structured?*

Discussions regarding the governance and structure of the SAA, including the development of bylaws, are underway. Student members of the SAA Task Force are participating in this critical process.

*Does the SAA have a Board of Directors?*

Yes. The former NAFDA and now SAA officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) along with the other student members of the SAA Task Force are the first Board of Directors of the newly formed SAA.

*When will new SAA officers and members at large be elected?*

The SAA Nominations Committee is currently developing a slate of candidates for officers and members at large. Elections will be held in spring 2009.

*Will local SAA chapters be able to elect their own officers?*

Yes. They will also be encouraged to include a national SAA representative among their elected officers.

***What are the responsibilities of the elected officers, including the national representatives?***

Discussions regarding the responsibilities of the officers are underway as part of the discussions on governance. SAA national representatives will be required to attend AudiologyNOW!® to represent their local chapters at the SAA's annual business meeting and other SAA events. Officers will also participate in virtual on-line meetings approximately four times a year. Officers, including the national representatives, may also be assigned other tasks related to management of the SAA, such as working on public relations activities and planning SAA activities at AudiologyNOW!®. These responsibilities will be defined as the SAA develops and matures.

***Will local SAA chapters be permitted to raise funds for educational events (e.g. local and national conferences?)***

Yes, as long as they follow regulations established by their universities.

***Will local SAA chapters be required to pay taxes on the funds they raise?***

It depends on how the funds are collected. Local chapters will need to consult with faculty advisors and university representatives regarding tax issues.

#### **SAA Activities at AudiologyNOW!®**

***In past years NAFDA met in conjunction with AudiologyNOW!®, the American Academy of Audiology's annual convention. Will there be SAA activities at AudiologyNOW!® to replace the NAFDA program?***

Yes. In fact, the SAA will provide expanded resources for student attendees at AudiologyNOW!®.

#### **For More Information**

***Where can I get more information?***

Feel free to contact the SAA Task Force co-chairs or Academy staff for more information. Their email addresses are listed with their names under "SAA Task Force Members" on the first page of these FAQs.

Also, visit the SAA on the Web at [www.StudentAcademyofAudiology.org](http://www.StudentAcademyofAudiology.org).