

Ohio is currently drafting language to change revised State Licensure code, which will require the Au.D. Comments below reflect other states that have changed their academic requirement to an Au.D., as well as an indication of whether or not audiologists practicing at the Masters degree level are grandfathered / licensed and can continue to practice.

STATE/ COUNTRY	COMMENTS
AK	<p>I live in Arkansas. There is no effort afoot in our state to change the requirement at the state level. Master's level clinicians will be "grandfathered." I really think that we will just wait until the ASHA requirement is implemented, and then try to adopt this as law in our state. No one ever said that transitioning would be easy or without bumps, but the Au.D. is good for the consumer and the profession. Let's face it there are vast differences between training programs in all professions. I would bet that even now a law degree from Harvard prepares an attorney somewhat better than from our two instate programs. These differences will always exist. For the good of our profession some will have to swallow their pride for the future of all audiologists. Grover H. Hutson, Au.D.</p>
AL	<p>As the owner of a busy, multi-office private practice, I concur. AMEN Brad! I too am getting prepared to do the distant learning AuD for my own interest but there is not a shadow of a doubt in my mind that it won't mean anything to my customer/patient who just wants to hear better. I sincerely and desperately hope and want to believe at some point (in my practice life-time) the general consumer will know what an audiologist is and I do everything I can, everyday, to demonstrate to my consumers that as an audiologist I am truly the best professional to help them hear better. I have seen horrendous fittings and cleaned-up messes from AuD audiologists as well as hearing aid dispensers.</p> <p>BUT NOW THE RUB: In Alaska since AuD 4th year students can't be licensed, I can't bill 3rd party for their work which severely limits their productivity and my motivation to have AuD 4th years in the practice. I can bill for services of CFY-A individuals. This will become increasingly difficult as the supply of CFY does dwindle.</p> <p>So from a private practice standpoint and billing and productivity and reimbursement etc. etc. NOT having licensure is an issue.</p> <p>My 2cents! Joyce F. Sexton, CCC-A President, Northern Hearing Services, Inc. Anchorage, Alaska</p>
AZ	<p>A group of us in AZ are in the process of reviewing the statutes now. Currently there is no language that requires an AuD. If we are able to get the AuD as entry level, I am sure we will grandfather current MS/MA practitioners. Hearing aid dealers are licensed under the same statute so there might be some resistance. Will keep you posted.</p> <p>Thanks, Steve Huart AZ State Leader</p>
CA	<p>In California we recognize "MA or equivalent" for licensure, and there are no immediate plans to attempt to change the law/regs to require the AuD. This is, in part, because we have only one AuD program in the state and the legislature would probably argue (with reasonable logic) that doing this would exacerbate an already existing shortage. Also this is in part due to the fact that, with few complaints against audiologists practicing with a MA degree, there does not appear to be a compelling consumer protection issue requiring the higher degree.</p> <p>We are in the process of amending our definition of "Board Approved Institution" to recognize AuD programs, but at the same time we are planning to allow our State Universities to continue granting MA degrees in Audiology until, probably, 2008, until such time that they are able to re-create themselves as AuD programs.</p> <p>Please understand that these are the current thoughts of the Board, based on consumer-access and consumer-protection considerations, and not necessarily my personal opinion! But we have some special circumstances in California that have resulted in great difficulty in changing our existing MA programs to doctoral level programs.</p> <p>Alison M. Grimes, Au.D.</p>

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	<p>Director of Audiology Providence Speech and Hearing Center 1301 Providence Ave. Orange, CA 92868 714/923-1524 714/639-2593 fax</p> <p>California at this time has no plans to change the degree needed for licensure. Our board has stated that since there are little to no consumer complaints in regard to Masters level providers, there is no reason to change the requirements. The only language we are currently working on is the issue of licensure for the residential AuD graduate who may not come from an accredited institution. That is currently a work in progress. Jody Jody Winzelberg AuD, FAAA Director of Pediatric Audiology Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford jwinzelberg@stanfordmed.org Phone: (650) 498-2738 Fax: (650) 736-HEAR (4327)</p>
Canada	<p>CASLPA (Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists) will retain the Master's degree in audiology (or equivalent) as the minimum requirement for entry into practice in audiology in Canada. This position was based on the results of the 2003 survey of Canadian audiologists which indicated that while over a third (35.2%) do support the adoption of the Au.D. as the minimum credential for entry into practice, a larger percentage (45.5%) do not support its adoption. 19.3% were still undecided. This position will be re-evaluated on a regular basis, again in 2006.</p> <p>If you would like to view CASLPA's Position Paper on the Au.D., please go to: http://www.caslpa.ca/PDF/position%20papers/Aud%20D%20Eng%20for%20pdf.pdf</p> <p>Chantal Lalonde, M.A., Aud(C), CCC-A Manager of Audiology and Supportive Personnel CASLPA #401-200 Elgin Street Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1L5 1-800-259-8519 / 613-567-9968 extension 35 chantal@caslpa.ca</p>
CO	<p>In Colorado, we currently do not have licensure. In 1997 Audiologists in Colorado were required to be "Registered" by the State of Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies. The minimum degree required is a master's, doctorate or equivalent in audiology. In addition, the audiologist must hold either CCCs from ASHA or Board Certification, or be licensed as an educational audiologist by the Colorado department of education. Temporary registrations for 12 months are issued to clinical fellows. Audiologists and Hearing Aid Providers are registered under the same division. This registration law "sunset" in 2007. A core group of audiologists will begin meeting and planning our future efforts for licensure.</p> <p><i>Sue Dreith, M.S./CCC-A</i> <i>Manager – Audiology Services</i> <i>The Children's Hospital</i> <i>Denver, CO 80218</i></p>
DE	<p>Delaware currently has the same educational/training requirements for both audiology and speech pathology licensure (master's degree or equivalent, 375 graduate practicum hours, passed the national exam, and completed CFY). However, the next Delaware Licensure Board meeting has the topic of audiology licensure and implications (the Au.D, audiology being tied with speech pathology, and ASHA) on the agenda for discussion.</p> <p>Gary Marencin</p>
GA	<p>From what I understand, in GA, they are trying to get legislation introduced this session to have the AuD be the minimum degree for NEW practicing audiologists after 2007. Current practioners w/ a Masters who hold a state license are eligible to practice, i.e. it should not affect them at all. This would only change the requirement for ENTRY-level practioners. There is a meeting this Fri about</p>

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	<p>this, so more details will be forthcoming soon. Katherine J. Pollard, Au.D. Board Certified in Audiology</p> <p>I should have stated in my previous email that it would be a doctoral degree in audiology, not specifically the Au.D. Part of the reason for looking at the licensure law is that it currently stated that there must be a 9-12 month clinical externship AFTER the degree is conferred. (a la ASHA CCC requirements). This is an issue for 4 year Au.D. students that did their externship BEFORE the degree was conferred. To practice in GA, they would have to do another externship. This does not bode well for attracting new practioners to the state. The new language would allow the externship to be b/f the degree is conferred, but the degree still must be conferred b/f the person is licensed. Currently practicing Master's level audiologists, if they hold a license, will NOT be stopped from practicing. I think the language of our proposed law is good, not too specific, but not too general either. The board has discretion for unique situations. We do have CEU requirements. Katherine J. Pollard, Au.D. Doctor of Audiology</p> <p>Georgia is in the process of drafting language; however, current clinical practitioners will be grandfathered into the law if the clinical audiology degree was conferred prior to January 1, 2007 by an accrediting body recognized by the Dept of Education. The new entry level as of January 2007 is a doctoral degree, preferably an AuD. Helena Solodar, Au.D. Audiological Consultants of Atlanta 2140 Peachtree Road #350 Atlanta, GA 30309 404-351-4114 Fax: 404-351-4223 hsolodar@audioconsult.com</p>
IA	<p>Currently in Iowa we have a committee that is reviewing the current laws, rules & regs to determine what changes need need to be made. Discussion has so far centered around the necessary changes needed for the AuD degree in Audiology. The committee is made up of professionals in the state who are working in all areas of audiology and speech pathology and hearing aid dispensing. The committee meets again on April 30th.</p> <p>Coral M Jud, Au.D., Chairperson - IA Lic Board for Sp Path & Audiology Fort Dodge Area Audiology Service dba Berry Hearing Aid & Audiology Centers 1214 Central Ave Fort Dodge IA 50501.4246 P: 515.573.7821 F: 515.573.8849</p>
IL	<p>Sorry to have taken so long to respond. Illinois basically requires 1500 clinical hours as criteria for licensure. This covers both a master's degree person after a 9 month supervised experience, or an AuD person after completing the degree. This includes the 4th year experience which requires no additional supervised experience post graduation.</p> <p>Thanks, Susan Rogan, AuD Susan Rogan Hearing Westmont, IL. 60559</p>

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MA	<p>Just my opinion here: until the AuD is defined, I think it's a little premature to mandate this doctoral degree over another by statute. Guidelines have yet to be adopted which will bring consistency to AuD education. Not knocking any one program in particular, but not all AuD programs are created equally. 3-year vs. 4-year? That's not a small difference. I'm all for promoting the AuD to the public, but there are unfortunate ramifications to pigeonholing yourself legally.</p> <p>Hope I'm not opening a can of worms... In Massachusetts, there is currently no legislation filed to mandate a doctoral degree as entry-level degree to practice Audiology. This doesn't mean we're keeping entry-level as a Masters, however. Our current licensure regulations mirror those of ASHA's (Masters or doctoral degree, etc.), but our Board of Registration has proposed changes in the regs: to obtain MA license to practice Audiology, you must meet minimum requirements for ASHA's C's. I know... gasp! Why this is such a clever move, however, is that ASHA does layout a specific timeline (albeit slow, and only thanks to AAA's pressure) for mandating entry-level doctoral degree in Audiology to obtain professional certification (although not specifically the AuD). In MA, this means new graduates applying for MA license must meet ASHA's requirements for C's (which means get a doctorate by 1/1/07 (-ish)). In this way, we won't have to file legislation to evolve to the entry-level doctorate. Note: the proposed regs in MA do not mandate the audiologist to obtain or maintain ASHA's C's. We keep our own continuing ed requirements, etc., separate from ASHA.</p> <p>There is no expectation one doctoral degree designator will be mandated over another, and all auds holding a current license in MA will be able to apply for waiver of new requirements (ie, be grandfathered in). As Brad Ingrao noted, our push for the doctoral degree is coming from the profession, not from consumers - this is fine and shouldn't stop the push, as our profession is anticipating the need/responding to greater educational demands for achieving competency to practice. No argument there.</p> <p>Brian Fligor</p>

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MA	<p>I think Alison (Alison Grimes-CA) brings up an excellent and very important point. If there is little data from the consumer protection point of view indicating that MA level audiology is indeed insufficient and "harmful" then it will have an impact on the over all pace at which the profession can realize the goal of being recognized as a doctoring profession.</p> <p>That is not to say that the current efforts should not continue, but rather should serve as a reality check so that those with very high levels of motivation and enthusiasm for the AuD do not become disheartened or lose "steam" when, despite all the efforts of AAA, ADA and ASHA, the public and the licensing boards still recognize the MA trained audiologist as "equivalent."</p> <p>My mother is a Nurse Practitioner with a MA. When she received her BS in 1959, the buzz was all about a shift to make the BS entry level for nursing. This has yet to happen.</p> <p>So let's be excited but let's also be realistic. Evidence-based practice counts here too. If we can't prove the difference with data, those outside of the field will not buy our arguments. I know that this data is being collected an the problem is being talked about, but we're not there yet.</p> <p>Brad Ingrao, MEd, CCC-A, FAAA Editor Email: info@bradingrao.com eden The Electronic Deaf Education Network A Virtual Community for Families of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children www.bradingrao.com</p> <p>Valerie, <<I don't think that the issue has anything to do with consumer protection. >></p> <p>I disagree. Professional regulation is all about consumer protection. Because of that, the qualification for licensure really is the minimum qualification required to practice without doing harm to the consumer. Does audiology really have any DATA to suggest that people prepared in a Masters program are dangerous? If states are offering to grandfather MS folks, then the answer is obviously no.</p> <p>All hyperbole and "school spirit" aside, is audiology as a profession prepared to DEMONSTRATE that those trained in AuD programs are really better able to meet the needs of the consumer than those from Masters programs? As Brian (I think) noted, the variability in the curricula and quality of the AuD programs, and simply the fact that some people are better clinicians than other, all put the profession at risk of claiming something we can't back up.</p> <p>I support the concept of improving the quality of the care we provide, but I am not convinced that the only way to achieve this is by raising the licensure requirement to the AuD. I think that mandatory CEU's was a good idea in theory, but there really isn't much control over the rigor of those CEU's. I can earn all my required credits by taking an open-journal test each time my JAAA journal arrives. Does that prove that I've continued me education or make me a better clinician? I'm not sure.</p> <p>I recognize that the field has decided to move to the AuD, and I'm enrolled in a distance-learning program and will complete the requirements for the degree this summer. I am convinced that I will gain some valuable information in this process, but I have no beliefs at all that this new designator will mean anything to the bulk of my patients within my professional lifetime (I'm 39 now). Masters level audiologists have been around for decades and the "man on the street" has no idea what an audiologist is or does. What makes anyone think they will understand why the professional they didn't know about all of the sudden is a Doctor. Pep talks and snappy tag lines on convention give-aways aren't enough.</p> <p>If they don't know us and we can't (yet) prove that without this new designator we are incompetent and therefore a danger to the consumer, then I we haven't proven that we need to make changes in legislation.</p> <p>Sorry to be a kill-joy, but audiology seems to have, at least partially, put the cart before the horse here. Let's get our house in order (including data to show, not tell, that AuD's are superior) before we invite the scrutiny of outside agencies. Brad Ingrao</p>
MI	<p>The state of Michigan is not looking at any changes (yet!). We have our first Audiology Board meeting at the end of Feb.</p> <p>We will be interested in hearing how other states are handling this.</p> <p>Noreen Gibbens Michigan AA</p>

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MO	<p>In Missouri there is a bill before the senate at this time that will allow graduates of four-year AuD programs to become fully licensed upon graduation instead of having to complete a provisional licensure year. Those with Master's degrees granted prior to 2007 that meet already established requirements for licensure would continue to be eligible.</p> <p>Missouri has legislation in process - would grandfather Masters level and require AuD (phased in) for future audiologists.</p> <p>Steve Brown, AuD Brown and Willen Audiology Center Cape Girardeau, MO</p>
NJ	<p>Do not know of any such move in New Jersey. They are still in ASHA CCC mode, I think.</p> <p>Valerie Kriney</p> <p>Dear Leaders:</p> <p>I don't think that the issue has anything to do with consumer protection. Our field is changing, and therefore the requirements for licensure need to change as well. The MA's will still retain their right to practice. We are just updating the licensure laws to reflect the changing of the profession. The master's programs are being phased out, so the licensure laws should reflect this. Many other prof. fields have gone this route. The public needs to be aware that the Au.D. will soon be the degree designation for our profession.</p> <p>Valerie Kriney, Au.D. NJ State Leader</p>
NM	<p>New Mexico has added AuD as the entry-level degree to practice audiology after 2007. However, any one who holds a masters degree with valid a state licence (any state), or ASHA CCC-A or ABA Certification will be permitted to practice audiology in the State of New Mexico. The language in the document clearly states AuD as the entry level after 2007 and others with a valid license or certification by a Speech-language, hearing or audiology organization can continue to practice in the State of New Mexico. The bill will be introduced during this session and our Lobbyist is quite confident that it will pass without any problem. If anyone needs a copy of the audiology section I will be happy to forward it to you.</p> <p>Bopanna Ballachanda, Ph.D.</p>
OK	<p>Oklahoma successfully changed our law last year so that now, after 12/31/06 an AuD (or a doctoral degree equivalent to an AuD) will be required in order to obtain a license to practice audiology in Oklahoma. Any master's level audiologist who has been practicing in the state and holds a valid license as of December 2006 will be grandfather in and will be allowed to continue to renew their license. There are no current or proposed requirements to mandate that all master's level audiologists currently practicing obtain an AuD or its equivalent.</p> <p>Although we were eventually successful, there were quite a few challenges to these changes.</p> <p>Good luck with your legislation!</p> <p>Michael Grim</p> <p>Oklahoma has passed legislation requiring the doctoral degree to obtain state licensure after a certain date I think 2005 or 2006. Those master's degree audiologists already practicing in the state with a valid license may continue to practice, but anyone without a doctoral degree in audiology that moves to the state after that date will not be eligible for state licensure.</p> <p>S. Painton</p> <p>Oklahoma (effective May 2004) has now added the Au.D. degree to our licensing act. Through 12/31/06, hold not less than a Master's Degree with major emphasis in Audiology from an institution that meets or exceeds prevailing national standards. After 12/31/06 a Master's Degree, or an Au.D, or a Ph.D. with emphasis in audiology, or its equivalent as determined by the Board, from a regionally accredited academic institution.</p> <p>After 12/31/06, applications applying with an Au.D. (Residential) must demonstrate preparation that includes three years of didactic coursework and clinical education equivalent to a 12-month, full-time clinical rotation or externship.</p>

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	<p>Pass examinations approved by the Board...(or, if in the case of current proof of current licensure in a state or country whose requirements are substantially equivalent to ours OR holders of CCC of ASHA are exempt from the Board examination). NOTE: currently Oklahoma's Board is a Speech Path and Audiology Board-----</p> <p>Attest to their status as either a US citizen, a US non-citizen national or a qualified alien.</p> <p>Susan Boyle</p>
PA	<p>I have read the many emails submitted in response to this inquiry. Let me comment on what we in PA are moving toward.</p> <p>We have a "new" licensure bill introduced in the PA Senate. The rationale to redo our licensure bill was driven by more than simply the AuD issue. As a matter of fact, I would say that the AuD was probably not even one of the primary reasons behind our efforts.</p> <p>Our current licensure act is almost 20 years old. I think we can all agree that our profession, as a whole, has changed dramatically in that time. We recognized that there were several issues in the current act that were outdated and certainly not reflective of the increased autonomy of audiologists. This had to do with the definition of an audiologist, what the role of an audiologist is in the provision of services to our hard of hearing consumers, as well as the issue of credentials.</p> <p>As the process evolved over the past three years, the AuD or, more generically stated, a clinical doctorate, became part of what had to be addressed and recognized in our new licensure bill. We were sensitive to our Master's level colleagues who are currently practicing who may never opt to obtain a clinical doctorate. However, like it or not, the clinical doctorate has been adopted by the big three (AAA, ASHA, ADA) as the future entry-level degree.</p> <p>So, here is what we adopted:</p> <p><i>The Master's degree will continue to be accepted to apply for a PA license through 2012. Thereafter, NEW applicants will require a clinical doctorate. Any who may apply with something other than a clinical doctorate will be reviewed on an individual basis by the licensure board. For example, if an audiologist currently holds a valid license from another state that may be relocating to PA, it is not our intent to exclude this audiologist and not grant a license. The same would apply to someone with a PhD. Their application would be reviewed by the board and granted a license if, in the opinion of the board they can provide adequate documentation as to their credentials. We did not feel we could write something into the bill that would apply to every single circumstance after 2012. So we put it into the hands of the licensure board.</i></p> <p>It is our feeling that by 2012 the remainder of the Master's programs would have gone the way of attrition or converted to an AuD program. We feel there will be very few if any NEW applicants for licensure in PA that carry a Master's degree.</p> <p>I do believe that this is a consumer protection issue and 7 years from now if there remain two year Master's programs while the great majority of audiologists carry a clinical doctorate, then it is in the best interest of the consumer to define the clinical doctorate as the minimum academic credentials to be granted a license in PA. Keeping the variability that has existed in the quality of academic training programs in mind, I think we can safely assume that a four-year clinical doctorate program will graduate more qualified audiologists than any two-year Master's programs.</p> <p>Our advice to any state currently in the process of reworking or implementing a licensure, you need to write it not just for today but for 10-20 years from now. You don't simply redo these bills every other year when something in the profession changes.</p> <p>Sherman G. Lord President Pennsylvania Academy of Audiology</p>
TX	<p>Masters and Ph.D. would be good to know. If not worded as Masters or higher, there may be a problem.</p> <p>Deborah L. Carlson, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Otolaryngology Director of Audiology & Speech Pathology The University of Texas Medical Branch 301 University Boulevard Galveston, TX 77555-0523 Phone: 409 772-2711 FAX: 409 747-2185</p>

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	<p>It seems Ohio has secured the info needed for their inquiry. Wanted to route this just in case they or others were still interested.</p> <p>In Texas, for licensure, audiologists must “possess at least a master’s degree with a major in at least one of the areas of communicative sciences or disorders from a program accredited by ASHA in an accredited or approved college or university”.</p> <p>Due to the present extensive restructuring of our state health care service system, there are no immediate plans to introduce suggested revisions to our state licensure code. We are however, beginning to work on the language that will include the AuD as the entry-level degree to the profession as well as permitting those with a valid state Audiology license (any state) the permission to practice in Texas.</p> <p>Sue Ann Holland Past President, Texas Academy of Audiology</p>
UT	<p>Utah has not yet changed, but is working on it as well. We are not grand fathering the masters level audiologists and do not foresee that happening.</p> <p>Bryan Layton</p>
VT	<p>Vermont just requires a masters degree and certification</p> <p>Hope this helps</p> <p>Bob Hartenstein</p> <p>PS I am the only one in Vermont with an AuD degree</p>
WI	<p>Wisconsin has the topic on the radar screen but only for monitoring purposes at this time. There is no legislation even in drafting stage that would require a doctoral degree for licensure. Wisconsin statutes do recognize an Au.D. degree as substantially equivalent to the examination, supervised clinical practicum, education and postgraduate clinical fellowship required for licensure but this is the only statute naming the Au.D. Univ of Wisconsin is in the opening stages of an Au.D. program but will continue to run its Master's side-be-side, at least for now.</p> <p>I concur that evidence of consumer protection will be necessary for passage of this type of legislation. The quickest way to be thrown out of a legislator's office is to bring forward "fence me in and fence you out" legislation, particularly if it reduces access to care. Audiology as a doctoring profession is the future but, as always, it will take time and patience.</p> <p>Onward.</p> <p>Meredy Hase, Au.D. Doctor of Audiology President Hearing Services Limited N4W22370 Bluemound Rd., Suite 202A Waukesha, Wisconsin 53186-1683 Voice: 262-547-2227 Fax: 262-547-5222 Website: www.oh2hear.com E-mail: meredy@execpc.com</p>