What Is an Audiologist?

Audiologists are health-care professionals who specialize in hearing and balance.

Audiologists evaluate, diagnose, treat, and manage hearing loss, tinnitus, balance disorders, and other auditory and vestibular conditions in people of all ages—from newborns and children to adults and older adults.

What Does an Audiologist Do?

- Evaluate and diagnose hearing and balance disorders
- Prescribe, fit, and manage hearing aids and other hearing technologies
- Provide hearing and communication rehabilitation
- Evaluate and manage tinnitus
- Evaluate and treat balance disorders, including dizziness and vertigo
- Work with cochlear implants and other implantable hearing devices
- Provide hearing screenings, including newborn screening
- Develop hearing conservation and hearing protection programs
- Evaluate and manage auditory processing disorders

Who Do Audiologists Help?

Audiologists provide care for people of all ages:
Newborns • Children • Teens • Adults • Older Adults

They help address hearing, listening, communication, tinnitus, and balance concerns throughout a person's lifetime.

Where Do Audiologists Work?

Audiologists work in:
Hospitals • Clinics • Private Practices • ENT Offices • Schools • Universities • Research Institutions • Government • Military • Veterans Health Administration

Becoming an Audiologist

The entry-level professional degree for audiologists in the United States is the Doctor of Audiology (AuD). Audiologists complete extensive academic and clinical education in hearing, balance, and related health sciences.

Audiologists must be licensed or registered to practice in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

When Should You See an Audiologist?

See an audiologist if you or someone you know:

- Has difficulty hearing or understanding speech
- Frequently asks others to repeat themselves
- Experiences ringing or other sounds in the ears
- Has dizziness, vertigo, or balance concerns
- Has concerns about a child's hearing or listening
- Wants to protect their hearing from noise
- Is considering hearing aids or other hearing technology