

Audiology

What is an Audiologist?

An Audiologist is a healthcare professional specializing in identifying, diagnosing, and monitoring disorders of the auditory and vestibular system portions of the ear. Audiologists serve in a number of roles including clinician, diagnostician, therapist, educator, consultant, researcher and administrator.

What do Audiologists do?

Audiologists are trained to diagnose, manage and/or treat hearing or balance problems. They dispense hearing aids and recommend and map cochlear implants. They counsel families through a new diagnosis of hearing loss in infants, and help teach coping and compensation skills to late-deafened adults. They also help design and implement personal and industrial hearing safety programs, newborn hearing screening tests, school hearing screening programs, and provide special fitting ear plugs and other hearing protection devices to help prevent hearing loss. In addition, many audiologists work as auditory scientists in a research capacity.

Where do Audiologists work?

Audiologists provide services and work in many different types of facilities:

- Schools
- Hospitals
- Rehabilitation centres
- Residential Health Facilities
- Community Clinics

- Colleges and Universities
- Private Practice offices
- Health Departments
- Government agencies
- Industry with hearing conservation programs
- Long-term care facilities
- Community hearing and speech centres
- Physicians offices
- Research laboratories

Education and Preparation

All Audiology programs are at the Masters level and require a 4 year undergraduate degree for admission. There are 2 and 3 year programs at 5 universities across Canada.

Professional Associations

Ontario Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists

<http://www.osla.ca/>

College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario

Licensure

The profession of Audiologist is regulated in New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta where it is illegal to practice without being registered as a full member in the appropriate provincial regulatory body. These bodies set standards for entry into the profession, and requirements vary from province to province.