

What Is an Audiologist?

Audiology is a highly recognized profession and has been ranked by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of the Best Careers in 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009.

- Au-di-ol-o-gists: Audiologists are the primary health-care professionals who evaluate, diagnose, treat, and manage hearing loss and balance disorders in adults and children.
- Audiologists
 - evaluate and diagnose hearing loss and vestibular (balance) disorders
 - prescribe, fit, and dispense hearing aids and other amplification and hearing assistance technologies
 - are members of cochlear implant teams
 - perform ear- or hearing-related surgical monitoring
 - design and implement hearing conservation programs
 - design and implement newborn hearing screening programs
 - provide hearing rehabilitation training such as auditory training and listening skills improvement
 - assess and treat individuals, especially children, with central auditory processing disorders
 - assess and treat individuals with tinnitus (noise in the ear, such as ringing)
- Audiologists treat all ages and types of hearing loss: the elderly, adults, teens, children, and infants.
- Almost all types of hearing loss are treatable by an audiologist.
- Most hearing loss that is caused by nerve damage can be treated by an audiologist with hearing aids, assistive listening devices, and hearing rehabilitation.
- Audiologists work in a variety of settings, such as hospitals, clinics, private practice, ENT offices, universities, K-12 schools, government, military, and Veterans' Administration (VA) hospitals.
- Most audiologists earn a doctor of audiology (AuD) degree. Some audiologists earn a doctor of philosophy (PhD) or doctor of science (ScD) degree in the hearing and balance sciences.
- Audiologists must be licensed or registered for practice in all states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

For more information on audiology and hearing loss, visit www.HowsYourHearing.org.