



## WISCONSIN ACADEMY OF AUDIOLOGY POSITION STATEMENT

### Justification for Doctors of Audiology (Au. D) signing WKC-16-B forms

#### **DEFINITIONS**

An audiologist is a health-care professional that by virtue of education, clinical training and license is uniquely qualified to provide a comprehensive array of professional services related to the identification, diagnosis, treatment, prevention and management of persons with auditory, balance, tinnitus and other disorders associated with the human auditory system. <sup>1 2 3</sup>

#### **WHERE DO AUDIOLOGISTS WORK?**

- **Private practices**
- **Clinics and Physicians' offices**
- **Hospitals**-Including governmental as in the Veterans Administration as well as private sector.
- **Schools**-K-12
- **Colleges and universities**: Serving as: Teachers of Audiology students, physicians, medical students, and as researchers.
- **Rehabilitation centers, long-term and residential health care facilities**
- **In business and industrial settings**- Providing information on hearing and balance, hearing loss and disability, prevention of hearing loss, and rehabilitation to business and industry. They develop and oversee hearing loss prevention programs in industry.
- **Legal settings**-Audiologists write reports and serve as expert witnesses within the boundaries of forensic audiology.
- **Hearing Aid Manufacturers**

#### **EDUCATION** <sup>[1] [2] [3]</sup>

An audiologist has completed 8–10 years of education and clinical training, with an AuD (Doctor of Audiology), PhD (Doctor of Philosophy), or Doctor of Science (ScD) degree in the hearing and balance sciences or an AuD/PhD combination degree.

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.audiology.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Scope-of-Practice\\_2023.pdf](https://www.audiology.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Scope-of-Practice_2023.pdf)

American Academy of Audiology-Scope of Practice Updated 2023

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.asha.org/public/who-are-audiologists/>

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association- Who Are Audiologists, and What Do They Do?

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.audiologist.org/resources/patients/what-is-an-audiologist>

Academy of Doctors of Audiology-What is an Audiologist

## **SCOPE OF PRACTICE**<sup>4 5</sup>

Audiologists serve in several roles including primary service provider, clinician, therapist, teacher, consultant, researcher and administrator. The scope of practice of audiologists is defined by the training and knowledge base of professionals who are licensed to practice as audiologists in Wisconsin in statute ch 459. Audiologists in the State of Wisconsin are required to complete 20 hours of continuing education every two years, including 2 hours of professional ethics.<sup>6</sup> As such, audiologists may be found in performance of several functions in their field, including but not limited to:

- Hearing loss, evaluation diagnosis, treatment, prevention and management
- Balance evaluation and treatment to include Videonystagmography, rotary chair, posturography amongst others
- Electrophysiologic evaluation including Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) Testing Electronystagmography (ENG), electromyography (EMG) and intraoperative monitoring
- Custom ear impressions and molds for hearing devices, hearing protection, in-ear monitors, swim plugs, communication devices, and so forth
- Hearing aid fitting, education, evaluation, repairs
- Selection and education on hearing assistive technology
- Hearing conservation which may include: Baseline and annual audiograms, education, noise monitoring, and hearing protection
- Large-area amplification systems
- Work with various types of implants to include: Cochlear, osseointegrated and auditory brainstem
- Tinnitus evaluation and management, including provision of tinnitus sound therapy through hearing aids, stand-alone devices and applications.
- Instructors of audiology students, medical students, physicians and other professions
- Selection, maintenance and education on assistive hearing technology like remote mics, classroom sound and FM systems, educating school personnel, advocacy for the hearing-impaired student and teaching that student self-advocacy, participating on a team to develop individualized educational and 504 plans for students including recommending classroom modifications
- Assess and treat individuals, especially children, with central auditory processing disorder
- Research in areas such as anatomy, physiology, perception, acoustics, genetics, stem cells, drug therapeutics.

---

<sup>4</sup> [https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/459/\\_26](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/459/_26)

SUBCHAPTER II LICENSURE OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS

<sup>5</sup> [https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin\\_code/has/6](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/has/6)

LICENSURE OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS, AUDIOLOGISTS AND TEMPORARY LICENSEES

<sup>6</sup> [https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin\\_code/has/8](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/has/8)

CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS