

**DOCTOR OF AUDIOLOGY (AuD) STUDENT HANDBOOK**  
**Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders**  
**College of Allied Health Sciences**  
**East Carolina University**  
**2024-2025 Academic Year**

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## **PREFACE**

This Handbook is written to assist the student and faculty in their journey through the AuD program in audiology in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. The procedures within this document are guidelines and policies of the department and the university. We urge you to refer to this as you progress through the program. Please remember, however, that some parts of the doctoral program are established, newly established, and other parts are constantly evolving. As such, the Audiology Faculty may modify this handbook as needed.

This handbook should be used in conjunction with the ECU Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic Handbook which is available on the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders website.

It is important as students that you keep abreast of all changes. If you have any questions concerning the program, please feel free to communicate your questions or concerns to us.

Good luck with your studies, and remember to take the time to enjoy the experience.

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Associate Department Chair, CSDI  
Program Director, Audiology

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Interim Department Chair, CSDI

## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

The Doctor of Audiology (AuD) Student Handbook is divided into *six* sections.

*Section 1* includes an introduction to the program, the time frame for completion, and the basic clinical practicum requirements.

*Section 2* is verbatim from the most recent East Carolina University Graduate Catalog: [https://catalog.ecu.edu/preview\\_program.php?catoid=30&poid=7851&returnto=2675](https://catalog.ecu.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=30&poid=7851&returnto=2675)

*Section 3* describes the academic, clinical, and professional requirements for obtaining the Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) in audiology from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and for satisfying North Carolina state licensure requirements in Audiology.

*Section 4* describes additional departmental requirements.

*Section 5* offers a detailed presentation of the curriculum.

*Section 6* describes related issues such as residency for tuition purposes and enrollment status.

### **Program Description**

The AuD program at East Carolina University (ECU) is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. The program has been designed for students to meet the academic and clinical requirements to obtain ASHA certification in Audiology and North Carolina state licensure in audiology.

The AuD program at ECU requires a minimum of 99 semester hours, which includes didactic and clinical coursework. Additionally, students are required to successfully complete the Gateway Examination during the first summer semester to continue into the second year of the program.

Most students are admitted under the post-baccalaureate category and are enrolled for a minimum of eleven semesters (including summers). The typical program progression is as follows:

Year 1: on-campus academic and clinical coursework

Year 2: on-campus academic and clinical coursework; off-campus clinical placements possible

Year 3: online academic coursework and primarily off-campus clinic placements

Year 4: off-campus clinical residency (may begin Summer of Year 3 or Fall of year 4 and continues through Spring of year 4)

## SECTION 2: DOCTOR OF AUDIOLOGY, AU.D. (GRADUATE CATALOG)

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at East Carolina University offers a clinical doctorate in audiology (AuD). The coursework focuses on scientific foundations and evidence-based clinical practice. The AuD program is accredited through the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and those completing the degree will be eligible to apply for ASHA's Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC).

### Admission

The admissions committee will make a holistic judgment of applicant qualifications. Admission to study at the doctoral level requires acceptance by the Graduate School and the department. The application for admission to the Graduate School and official transcripts from each college or university attended must be sent to the dean of the Graduate School.

Applicants seeking admission to doctoral study should have completed a well-integrated program of study that includes coursework in biological and physical sciences and mathematics, behavioral and/or social sciences, and human communication sciences and disorders.

### Admission Requirements

1. Bachelor's or master's degree or its equivalent from an institutionally accredited institution with a minimum overall grade point average of 3.2 (on a scale of A=4.0).
2. The following undergraduate course prerequisites are required: life sciences (6 s.h.), physical sciences (3 s.h.), behavioral sciences (6 s.h.), English (3 s.h.), mathematics (3 s.h.), statistics (3 s.h.), anatomy and physiology (3 s.h.), and language development (3 s.h.). Other courses in communication sciences and disorders are strongly encouraged.
3. Graduate Record Examination within five years. Recent applicants have had mean GRE scores of 150 for verbal, 150 for quantitative, and 4.0 for analytic writing. The GRE is waived as an entrance requirement for EC Scholars at East Carolina University if other criteria are met.
4. ECU students accepted in the Early Assurance program are guaranteed entry upon completion of their undergraduate degree provided they satisfy program requirements.
5. Three (3) letters of recommendation, at least two from faculty of the college(s) or university(s) previously attended.
6. A statement that summarizes reasons for pursuing a clinical doctorate in audiology.
7. Telephone, online video chat, or face-to-face interview.

Additional requirements for admission will be posted to the department website on an annual basis. Baccalaureate admission: The post-baccalaureate audiology degree program consists of a minimum of 99 graduate credit hours to include broad-based knowledge in areas of applied clinical audiology, structure and development of hearing and communication disorders, speech and hearing sciences, statistics, computers and instrumentation, and research design.

Post-Master's admission: Students with a master's degree may seek admission to the audiology program. Admission decisions will be made on an individual basis with review of the educational background as well as the admissions requirements. Individuals seeking post-master's entrance will be required to complete the minimum 99 graduate semester hours. Those hours may include up to one third of the credit hours in a graduate certificate or degree program from an institutionally accredited college or university. For more information, see *Transfer Credits* in the Academic Regulations section.

### **Degree Requirements**

Minimum degree requirement is 99 s.h. as follows:

<see catalog for list>

### **Clinical Residency**

The clinical residency will be the final clinical placement in audiology that may range from half-time to full-time and that allows for the development of comprehensive clinical knowledge, skills and abilities.

### **Comprehensive Assessment Requirement**

All ECU graduate programs require students to successfully complete a comprehensive assessment. The assessment for this program requires that students pass a Gateway Exam at the completion of the first year. The examination format is written. Faculty will rate the responses as satisfactory or unsatisfactory. Faculty will inform students of their performance on the examination within one-month of completing the exam. If the student receives unsatisfactory for any part of the Gateway examination, the student must meet with the faculty to discuss areas of weakness prior to retaking those portion(s) of the exam. The student must re-write the unsatisfactory portion(s) of the comprehensive examination. Rewrites and final decisions are made prior to the start of the student's second year of the audiology program. Failure to rewrite and successfully pass the unsatisfactory portion(s) of the exam prior to the start of the student's second year will result in termination of the student from the program.

### **Time Limits for Completion of Degree Requirements**

A doctoral degree program must be completed before the end of the twelfth semester, excluding summers, following initial enrollment. With endorsement of the student's major professor and program committee and also the departmental chair, a student may request one extension of not more than two semesters, summers included.

### **Termination or Continuance of Graduate Study**

Graduate School regulations for most academic issues are utilized and can be found in the Academic Regulations section of this catalog. For the purposes of retention in the audiology degree program, the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders has developed and adopted stricter standards than the Graduate School.

The Graduate School requires a 3.0 GPA for retention and graduation. In addition, the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders requires that students earn no less than a grade of “B” in more than 1 course during their degree program. This includes all departmental courses including didactic, clinical, or research taught by any delivery method.

Upon receipt of the second grade of less than a “B,” a review of the student’s academic and clinical progress will be conducted by the student’s advisor, the Director of Doctoral Education, and the Department Chair. Recommendations for continuance or termination will be made to the Doctoral Education Committee for consideration. If the decision of the Doctoral Education Committee is for termination, this will be communicated by the Director of Doctoral Education to the student and the Graduate School. If the decision is for continuation, this will be communicated to the student.

Upon the 3rd course with lower than a “B” grade, the Director of Doctoral Education shall notify in writing the student and the Graduate School that the student’s degree program is terminated. The student can appeal this termination by writing a letter to the Director of Doctoral Education and asking the Doctoral Education Committee for reinstatement. The Director of Doctoral Education will convey the decision of the committee to the student and the Graduate School. If allowed to continue in the program, the student may not earn any additional credit hours of less than a “B” grade. If terminated at this point the student may appeal the decision through the ECU School Appeals procedure. (Rev. September 2011).

### **Licensure/Certification Requirements in North Carolina**

The curriculum for all ECU Certificates, Degrees, and other Graduate Programs have been designed to meet the licensure/certification requirements in North Carolina and prepare students to sit for licensure/certification exams in North Carolina. The various licensure boards in each state are responsible for setting requirements for licensure/certification in their state. Other states have their own requirements, and you’ll want to make sure your program meets criteria in your home state (or state where you intend to work) before you apply. Search our state Licensure Dashboard to see if the program you’re interested in meets the educational requirements for licensing/certification in your home state (or state where you intend to work).

### **SECTION 3: CCC-A AND NORTH CAROLINA AUDIOLOGY LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS**

The program has been designed for students to meet the academic and clinical requirements to obtain ASHA certification in Audiology (CCC-A) and North Carolina state licensure in audiology.

#### **Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology (CCC-A)**

To obtain ASHA certification, applicants must meet the 2020 Standards for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology. The Standards for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology are shown below. The Council for Clinical Certification implementation procedures follow each standard.

- Standard I—Academic Qualifications
- Standard II—Knowledge and Skills Outcomes
- Standard III—Verification of Knowledge and Skills
- Standard IV—Examination
- Standard V —Maintenance of Certification

#### **Standard I: Academic Qualifications**

Applicants for certification must hold a doctoral degree in audiology from a program accredited by the CAA, a program in CAA candidacy status, or equivalent.

#### **Standard II: Knowledge and Skills Outcomes**

Applicants for certification must have acquired knowledge and developed skills in the professional areas of practice as identified in Standards II A-F, as verified in accordance with Standard III.

#### **Standard III: Verification of Knowledge and Skills**

Applicants for certification must have completed supervised clinical practicum under an ASHA-certified audiologist who (1) has a minimum of 9 months of full-time clinical experience (or its part-time equivalent) and (2) has completed at least 2 hours of professional development in the area of clinical instruction/supervision.

The applicant's clinical experiences must meet CAA standards for duration and be sufficient to demonstrate the acquisition of the knowledge and skills identified in Standard II.

#### **Standard IV: Examination**

The applicant must pass the national examination adopted by ASHA for purposes of certification in audiology.

#### **Standard V: Maintenance of Certification**

Individuals holding certification must demonstrate (a) continuing professional development hours (PDH) including 1 PDH in ethics; (b) 2 PDHs in cultural competency, cultural humility,



culturally responsive practice, or diversity, equity, and inclusion; (c) adherence to the ASHA Code of Ethics; and (d) payment of annual dues and fees.

**Source:** <https://www.asha.org/certification/2020-audiology-certification-standards/>

### **North Carolina Audiology Licensure**

The North Carolina Board of Examiners for Speech and Language Pathologists and Audiologists establishes the requirements and standards for North Carolina Audiology Licensure. As of August 4, 2022, the academic and clinical requirements for Initial Licensure in Audiology are as follows:

1. A minimum of 15 semester hours in basic communication processes
2. A minimum of 36 semester hours in professional audiology coursework
3. A minimum of 90 overall semester hours
4. Present written evidence documenting 1,800 clock hours of professional experience directly supervised by an audiologist who is State-licensed or certified by the American Speech Language-Hearing Association or other Board-approved agency. The clock hours of professional experience must be with individuals who present a variety of communication and auditory disorders and must have been obtained within the training program at an accredited college or university or in one of its cooperating programs
5. Submission of verified clinical hours sheet
6. Program director's recommendation
7. Passing score on Praxis Examination in Audiology

**Source:** <https://ncboeslpa.org/wp-content/uploads/Article-22.pdf>

### **Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC)**

The Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC) allows eligible licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists an alternative method for providing services in other member states. North Carolina is a member state of the ASLP-IC.

## **SECTION 4: ADDITIONAL DEPARTMENTAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AU.D.**

### **Program Requirements: Course Remediation for Grade less than “B”**

As previously noted in section 2, the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders requires that students earn no less than a grade of “B” in more than 1 course during their degree program. While a grade of “C” is defined as “passing” by the Graduate School, this is superseded by program requirements and does not imply that a grade of C leads to successful matriculation through the program. In the event that a student does earn less than a grade of B, the student must complete a course remediation for said course. The remediation plan is at the discretion of the instructor and may include repeating the course. Failure to successfully complete the remediation plan will either result in 1) a required course retake or 2) termination from the program. It is the student’s responsibility to schedule a meeting with the instructor within one week of receiving a grade of less than “B”.

Upon successful completion of the course remediation, the program director will notify the registrar’s office of the course exception so that the course can count toward the student’s degree requirements. Note that course remediations and retakes may delay the student’s expected graduation date.

### **Program Requirements: Transfer Students**

Students wishing to transfer to the audiology program from another graduate audiology program must follow standard application procedures. New students are only admitted in the fall semester. Transfer students may be asked to submit additional application materials, including but not limited to a statement from the current graduate program director detailing the student’s status in the program, a personal statement describing the reasons for the transfer request, current graduate transcripts, and copies of clinical evaluations. With the support of the graduate program director, up to one third of the credit hours in a graduate certificate or degree program may be transferred from a regionally accredited college or university. Transfer credit regulations may be found in the ECU Graduate Program Directors & Coordinators Handbook (section 5.1) at:

[https://gradschool.ecu.edu/wp-content/pv-uploads/sites/118/2023/01/Graduate-Program-Directors-Coordinators-Handbook\\_Fall-2023.pdf](https://gradschool.ecu.edu/wp-content/pv-uploads/sites/118/2023/01/Graduate-Program-Directors-Coordinators-Handbook_Fall-2023.pdf)

### **Program Requirements: Pre-Requisites**

Admitted students with an undergraduate degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders can typically complete the program in four years, as previously described. Admitted students who hold undergraduate degrees in other areas may be required to complete additional coursework, including undergraduate pre-requisites. The Audiology Program Director will help design a curriculum that will meet the requirements for the department, ASHA certification, and North Carolina state licensure. The addition of pre-requisite coursework may extend the total program length.

### **Program Requirements: Student Departmental Files**

Throughout the program, the department will maintain a student file. Periodically, including during the annual review, the student and Audiology Program Director will insure that proper

documentation has been maintained. The student file contains undergraduate transcripts, clinical evaluations, results of formative assessments including the Gateway Examination, results of academic or clinical concerns, annual reviews, and other related documents. Academic progress can be viewed in real time using the DegreeWorks feature in PiratePort.

**Program Requirements: Gateway Examination**

The Gateway examination is administered at the beginning of the 11-week summer semester during the first year in the program. The Gateway examination is designed to assess the student's ability to synthesize knowledge gained through academic and clinical experiences. The sections of the Gateway examination relate back to the didactic courses taken during the first year, as follows:

Methods in Clinical Audiology (CSDI 8000) & Lab (CSDI 8007) \*\*

Methods in Amplification (CSDI 8005) \*\*

Auditory Processing (CSDI 8006)

Psychoacoustics (CSDI 8009)

Advanced Acoustics (CSDI 8011)

Methods in Clinical Audiology II (CSDI 8013) & Lab (CSDI 8100) \*\*

Auditory Physiology (CSDI 8016)

Advanced Methods in Amplification II (CSDI 8017) \*\*

\*\* denotes clinically-based course

While the format of the examination is written, there will be practical, hands-on components for clinically-based courses. During the spring semester, the Audiology Program Director will meet with the first year students to determine the examination date and to review the exam format. Prior to the Gateway examination, students should contact their instructors for content information.

**Gateway Examination Scoring & Procedures**

Faculty will rate the examination responses as satisfactory or unsatisfactory. Satisfactory corresponds to a score of 80% or better for each section. The Audiology Program Director will inform students of their performance within two weeks of completing the examination. Students who receive a score of 80% or better for each section will be advised that they have successfully completed the examination and that no further action is required.

If a student receives an unsatisfactory score for any section, they must retake the examination for that section within four weeks of the notification of the initial Gateway examination score. A retake examination can only be administered one time per section. The retake examination will cover the same material and will follow the initial examination format. For retake examinations, the faculty member(s) will work with the student to develop a remediation plan designed to improve knowledge in deficient subject areas. *It is the student's responsibility to review their performance on the Gateway examination and pursue remediation and retake with the appropriate faculty member(s).*

Failure to pursue remediation and retake and to successfully pass any Gateway examination retake within the designated time frame will result in termination of the student from the program.

**Program Requirements: Clinical Practicum**

At the beginning of each semester, the student and his/her supervisor will identify a set of clinical goals and activities used to meet these goals. During the semester, the student will receive periodic clinical evaluations from his/her supervisor. Students are required to conduct initial goals setting, midterm, and final evaluation meetings with their clinical supervisor(s) each semester. The Audiology Clinical Coordinator will advise students of these requirements each semester.

**Program Requirements: Clinical Placements**

During years 1 and 2, students will complete the majority of their clinical coursework in the ECU Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic (ECU-SLHC) in order to develop basic clinical competencies. Some students will begin off-campus clinical placements at local clinical practicum sites during year 2. During year 3, students typically complete at least two off-campus clinical placements (Fall & Spring) that consist of a minimum of two days of full-time clinical experiences. The fourth year clinical residency typically begins during the summer of year 3 or fall of year 4 and continues through spring of year 4.

All clinical practicum sites are subject to department approval. The program reserves the right to refuse student placement if necessary. Students are required to complete clinical practicum assignments that are sufficient in breadth and depth to provide a diverse clinical experience. Therefore, the program has the ultimate authority regarding clinical placements in order to provide optimum training opportunities.

The ECU AuD program has relationships with multiple clinical practicum sites. Many sites are located in Greenville, NC. However, some clinical practicum sites are located outside of the Greenville, NC area. Students will not be required to complete clinical rotations outside of the greater Greenville area during the first two years in the program (unless requested by the student). Students will likely be required to complete clinical practicum at sites outside of the Greenville area during Year 3. Year 4 externships will vary based on student acceptance of externship.

**Program Requirements: Praxis Examination in Audiology**

A passing score on the Praxis Examination in Audiology is a requirement for ASHA certification and North Carolina State Audiology licensure. The ECU graduate school stipulates that for a professional doctoral degree to be awarded the applicant must have passed a clinical examination defense. Because the Praxis Examination in Audiology is a predominately clinical examination, obtaining a passing score on The Praxis Examination in Audiology is the preferred method for satisfying the clinical examination defense requirement. However, in some cases, a program-administered examination may be possible for students who have taken the Praxis

examination without obtaining a passing score but have otherwise met all of the degree requirements.

Students are required to notify the Audiology program director of Praxis examination results within one week of receiving the score report.

**Program Requirements: Application to Graduate**

Following successful completion of the requirements of the doctorate degree, as determined by the Audiology Program Director, students must make a formal application for graduation (<https://registrar.ecu.edu/how-to-apply-to-graduate/>).

The Application for Graduation must be made and submitted to the Office of the Registrar at least one semester prior to completing the requirements of the degree as stated by the Graduate Catalog. Students must also complete the Graduate Summary Form. Both forms must be completed and these printed forms must be submitted to the Graduation Services office in the Office of the Registrar.

**Program Requirements: Student Advising**

Routine advising sessions are conducted throughout the program. The Audiology Program Director will schedule these at least once a year and all students are required to attend. The Audiology Program Director is available for advising, by request, at any time during the student's program. Students are encouraged to track their progress using DegreeWorks through PiratePort. It is the student's responsibility to understand and track degree progress.

**Program Requirements: MINIMAL TECHNICAL STANDARDS****Critical Thinking**

All students must possess the intellectual, ethical, physical, and emotional capabilities required to participate in a clinical setting and to achieve the levels of competence required by the faculty supervisors. The ability to solve problems, a skill that is critical to the practice of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, requires the intellectual abilities of measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. Graduate clinicians must be able to integrate academic knowledge into practical skills need for clinical work.

**Communication Skills**

Graduate Clinicians should also be able to speak, to hear, and to observe clients in order to elicit information. Graduate clinicians must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written forms.

**Auditory/Visual Ability**

Student clinicians must be able to observe a client accurately, both at a distance and close at hand. This ability requires the functional use of audition and vision.

**Mobility and Fine Motor Skills**

Graduate clinicians should be able to execute movements reasonably required to move from area to area, maneuver in small places, calibrate and use small equipment as appropriate, and provide patients with general care.

**Interpersonal Abilities**

Graduate clinicians must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities required for the diagnosis and care of clients, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients, families, and colleagues.

I have read these standards and I am able to meet these minimal technical requirements.

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Student Signature

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Date

**SECTION 5: SAMPLE AU.D. CURRICULUM**

(The curriculum is subject to change according to enrollment and faculty assignments)

The AuD curriculum has been designed to ensure that students graduate with the skills needed to enter contemporary Audiology professional practice. In addition, the curriculum has been designed to satisfy the standards established by the ECU Graduate School for professional doctoral degrees. Finally, the curriculum has been designed to meet standards III-V of ASHA's 2012 Standards for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology. As a result, students complete clinical rotations in a variety of settings and with diverse patient populations, acquire knowledge and skills in six core areas, and undergo routine assessments to demonstrate successful achievement of the knowledge and skills described in Standard IV.

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
<b>Methods I (8000) &amp; Lab (8007) – 4</b> <b>Amplification I (8005) – 3</b> <b>Advanced Acoustics (8011) – 3</b> <b>Auditory Physiology (8016) – 3</b>  <b>Clinical Rotation (8234) – 2</b>  <b>TOTAL: 15</b>	<b>Vestibular (8002) &amp; Lab (8102) - 4</b>  <b>Pediatrics (8003) – 3</b> <b>Electrophys I (8019) &amp; Lab (8103) – 4</b> <b>Cochlear Implants (8027) – 2</b>  <b>Clinical Rotation (8234) – 2</b>  <b>TOTAL: 15</b>	<b>Professional Issues (8150) – 1</b>  <b>Clinical Rotation (8234) – 8</b>  <b>TOTAL: 9</b>	<b>Clinical Residency (8993) – 3</b>  <b>TOTAL: 3</b>
<b>Auditory Processing (8006) – 3</b> <b>Psychoacoustics (8009) – 3</b> <b>Methods II (8013) &amp; Lab (8100) – 4</b> <b>Amplification II (8017) – 3</b>  <b>Clinical Rotation (8234) – 2</b>  <b>TOTAL: 15</b>	<b>Aural Rehabilitation (8021) – 4</b> <b>Electrophys II (8026) &amp; Lab (8104) – 4</b> <b>C. Implants Tech/Research (8033) – 3</b>  <b>Clinical Rotation (8234) – 4</b>  <b>TOTAL: 15</b>	<b>Hearing Conservation (8032) – 3</b>  <b>Clinical Rotation (8234) – 8</b>  <b>TOTAL: 11</b>	<b>Clinical Residency (8993) – 3</b>  <b>TOTAL: 3</b>
<b>Research Design (6103) – 3</b>  <b>Clinical Rotation (8234) – 1</b>  <b>TOTAL: 4</b>	<b>Auditory Pathologies (8028) – 2</b> <b>Counseling (8029) – 3</b>  <b>Clinical Rotation (8234) – 1</b>  <b>TOTAL: 6</b>	<b>Clinical Residency (8993) – 3</b>  <b>TOTAL: 3</b>	N/A
<b>YEAR 1 TOTAL: 34</b>  <b>DIDACTIC: 29</b> <b>CLINICAL: 5</b>	<b>YEAR 2 TOTAL: 36</b>  <b>DIDACTIC: 29</b> <b>CLINICAL: 7</b>	<b>YEAR 3 TOTAL: 23</b>  <b>DIDACTIC: 4</b> <b>CLINICAL: 19</b>	<b>YEAR 4 TOTAL: 6</b>  <b>DIDACTIC: 0</b> <b>CLINICAL: 6</b>

## SECTION 6: RELATED ISSUES

### Residency for Tuition Purposes

Residency status for the purpose of determining tuition charges at a public institution of higher education in the state of NC is governed by the North Carolina General Statutes. Students who are classified as residents for tuition purposes are eligible for a tuition rate lower than that charged to nonresidents because a resident's tuition is subsidized by tax revenue from the state of NC. Resident tuition is, therefore, a benefit offered by the state to its residents under terms in the applicable General Statutes. It is strongly recommended that students review the laws and regulations prior to submitting a Resident and Tuition Status Application.

<https://gradschool.ecu.edu/residency/>

### Enrollment Status

Because of the nature of the program, in Years 3 & 4 students may be enrolled in fewer credit hours (at the discretion of the AuD program director) than are required to be considered a full-time student. This may have implications for financial aid, student health insurance, and other financial and logistical considerations. In some cases it is possible for students to enroll in additional credit hours to maintain full-time status. However, it is the goal of the program to reduce the financial burden of tuition and fees during the clinical residency while maintaining excellence in the training program. This will be discussed individually with each student during the annual review so that a plan can be developed. Students are also strongly encouraged to contact their respective financial aid centers to discuss implications.

### Associated Training Costs

Clinical education programs have associated costs that are not directly related to tuition and fees. These may include:

- Clinical dress requirements (professional attire, scrubs, ID badges, etc.)
- Clinical practicum requirements including, but not limited to: physical examinations, immunizations, titers, drug screens, criminal background checks, fingerprinting, and specialized trainings (i.e., Basic Life Support)
- Travel and parking costs associated with clinical practicum
- Relocation expenses related to clinical practicum and clinical residency
- Computers and technology fees/licenses/memberships

These costs are inherent to any clinical education program and it is important that students understand what to expect so that they may plan appropriately.

### Graduate Assistantships

A variety of graduate assistantships are available to AuD students. Some positions are within the department and others are funded through external grants or contracts. AuD assistantships typically involve a one-year contract with work assignments related to research, teaching, and clinical duties. Assistantships are awarded based on merit and there is no formal application



process. The audiology faculty under the guidance of the Audiology Program Director makes decisions. Students selected for an assistantship will be given a contract outlining the specific duties, work hours, and duration of the position. The faculty mentor will be responsible for supervising duties and tracking work hours.

### **Student Availability to Meet Degree Requirements**

Students are required to be available for academic and clinical assignments Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM *and* for required evening courses, seminars, or unscheduled training opportunities. Maintaining outside employment, therefore, may be challenging for students in the AuD program. While we strive to timely provide students with their academic and clinical schedules, this is not always possible and therefore it will be difficult to predict work hours should you seek outside employment.

### **Student Organizations**

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at ECU maintains active chapters in the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA) and the Student Academy of Audiology (SAA). All AuD students are eligible for and encouraged to participate in these student organizations. Not only do these organizations provide opportunities for scholarship, leadership development, and interdisciplinary collegiality, they also assist the department in offering educational symposiums, student gatherings, and community philanthropic initiatives.

### **Graduate Student Grade Appeals**

The grade appeals policy can be located in the graduate catalog at:

<https://catalog.ecu.edu/content.php?catoid=30&navoid=2662>

### **Failure to Meet Degree Requirements**

A student's failure to meet the requirements of the program as stated in this handbook will result in program termination. A student may appeal a termination decision to the Audiology program director within one week of notification of termination. The audiology faculty will review all appeals and make decisions on a case-by-case basis. If an appeal is granted, a remediation plan will be developed and implemented for the remainder of the student's program.

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is a cornerstone value of the intellectual community at East Carolina University. Academic integrity ensures that students derive optimal benefit from their educational experience and their pursuit of knowledge. Violating the principle of academic integrity damages the reputation of the university and undermines its educational mission. Without the assurance of integrity in academic work, including research, degrees from the university lose value, and the world beyond campus (graduate schools, employers, colleagues, neighbors, etc.) learns that it cannot trust credits or a diploma earned at ECU. For these reasons, academic integrity is required of every ECU student.

Policies and procedures related to suspected violations of academic integrity can be found in Part VI of the ECU faculty manual at:

<http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/fsonline/customcf/currentfacultymanual/part6.pdf>

### **Student Services**

ECU offers a myriad of support services to students. These services are easily accessible through the ECU homepage (<http://www.ecu.edu/>) and include the Department for Disability Support Services (<http://www.ecu.edu/accessibility/>), ECU CARES (<https://ecucares.ecu.edu/>), and the ECU Dean of Students Office (<https://deanofstudents.ecu.edu/>).

### **English Proficiency**

#### ECU Graduate School Admissions

**Provide Evidence of English Proficiency:** If English is not your native language and you have not completed at least one year of education (minimum of 18 credit hours) at a United States school, you are required to take a standardized English language exam or complete the ECU Language Academy (ECULA). The Graduate School accepts either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), the Duolingo English Test or Pearson Test of English (PTE) and scores must be forwarded to the Graduate School by the testing service. An iBT TOEFL score of 18 on each section for a total minimum score of 78, IELTS score of 6.5, a Duolingo score of 105, or PTE score of 65 (with 60 on each section) is required to meet the language exam requirement. The paper- or computer-based TOEFL exam is accepted by request only. You may choose to attend the ECU Language Academy instead of taking the TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE. Also, if you do not obtain the required score on the TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE, at least one session of the ECU Language Academy may be required prior to the start of your program. Successful completion of all levels of the ECU Language Academy is required for admission without TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE scores. More information on the ECU Language Academy, including the ECULA application, is available on the [Intensive English Program website](#). Individual programs may have higher minimum requirements.

<https://gradschool.ecu.edu/international-students/>

#### ECU Graduate Catalog – Language Requirement

Standard American English is the language of instruction at East Carolina University, except in certain foreign language programs. Adequate knowledge of that language is expected of all students. The various departments generally evaluate students in this regard, and they may require students to secure remedial instruction if necessary. Students whose native language is not English must demonstrate capability through the TOEFL, IELTS or PTE examinations, language academy, or other means. Some departments may require knowledge of one or more foreign languages for advanced degrees. For information, the student should contact the department.

[http://catalog.ecu.edu/content.php?catoid=26&navoid=2317#Language\\_Requirement](http://catalog.ecu.edu/content.php?catoid=26&navoid=2317#Language_Requirement)

### **Student Grievances**

Policies and procedures related to the handling of student grievances are maintained by the Dean of Students office at:

<https://deanofstudents.ecu.edu/home/complaints-grievances/>

If a student wishes to file a complaint regarding the program's compliance with standards of accreditation, the student may contact the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology at:

The Council on Academic Accreditation in  
Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology  
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
2200 Research Boulevard, #310  
Rockville, MD 20850

800-498-2071

<https://caa.asha.org/>

## **Non-Discrimination Policy**

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSDI) fully supports and is guided by East Carolina University's (ECU) policy to ensure non-discrimination, located at:

[https://policy.ecu.edu/05/25/02#:~:text=East%20Carolina%20University%20\(%22ECU%22,%2C%20sexual%20orientation%2C%20gender%20identity%2C](https://policy.ecu.edu/05/25/02#:~:text=East%20Carolina%20University%20(%22ECU%22,%2C%20sexual%20orientation%2C%20gender%20identity%2C)

CSDI specifically creates academic and clinical experiences (both on-campus and off-campus) for students that reflect our respect for and appreciation of the individual diversity of our student clinicians and the clients they engage. As outlined in our Doctor of Audiology (AuD) program student handbook (p. 14), students are required to have minimum communication standards to ensure they are able to “speak, to hear, and to observe clients in order to elicit information. Graduate student clinicians must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written forms.”

**East Carolina University**  
**Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders**  
**Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) Program**

Acknowledgment of Review of Au.D. Student Handbook

I, \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge that my understanding of the information contained in the Au.D. Student Handbook is critical to my overall success in the Au.D. program. I also acknowledge that I am aware of the handbook's location and have reviewed its contents. Furthermore, I understand that if revisions are made, I will be notified and will be responsible for reviewing those revisions.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_