



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES

2801 South University Little Rock, Arkansas 72204 501.569.3155

Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology
Speech and Hearing Clinic

UAMS

Dear Prospective Au.D. Student:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding our audiology graduate program. Students completing the program are awarded the Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) degree. The Audiology and Speech Pathology department is part of both the College of Health Related Professions (CHRP), University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) and the College of Professional Studies, University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR). The Au.D. degree is awarded through CHRP at UAMS. The Au.D. is a professional degree requiring a minimum of 118 semester credits and includes course work, clinical practicum, a research component, and a comprehensive examination. The program is four years, including summers, with the final year spent in a full-time clinical experience. Students admitted to the Au.D. program directly from undergraduate studies will begin in the fall semester only.

The UAMS/UALR Au.D. program is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech Pathology. All graduates will have the opportunity to complete the academic and clinical requirements for national certification in audiology offered by the Council for Clinical Certification (CCC) and the American Board of Audiology (ABA). To be eligible for certification by the CCC, students must have at least 3 undergraduate credits in each of the following areas: biological science, physical science, social science, mathematics. These courses would need to be completed prior to your application for certification from the CCC. These credits will not count toward the 118 in the Au.D. program. If your baccalaureate degree is not in communication sciences and disorders (CSD), 2 undergraduate CSD courses are required: Phonetics and Language Acquisition, and they will not count toward the total of 118 semester credits needed for the Au.D. You may take these courses prior or subsequent to your admission to the Au.D. program. These courses are offered through UALR and online at a limited number of institutions.

Enclosed is program information including degree requirements, steps in the application process, recommendation form (three recommendations are required), graduate assistantship application and an 'Essential Functions' document. You are required to complete an interview with two or more faculty members as part of the admissions process. If accepted, you will sign the Essential Functions document before enrollment. Admission is based on your cumulative grade point average, your major grade point average, your Graduate Record Examination scores, recommendation letters from faculty, and your application letter. Transcripts must be **"official" through Fall 2011 and are acceptable only when mailed directly to CHRP from the granting institution.** The CHRP application is completed online at the link listed in this application packet. Payment of the \$20.00 fee should accompany the application. Have your GRE scores sent directly to CHRP with **Institution Code 6146**. The recommendation forms and graduate assistantship application should be mailed directly to the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology (address is provided on those forms). **All application materials are due February 1, 2012.**

We appreciate your interest in our program, and I look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions about admission or our program, please feel free to contact me at 501-569-3155 or sratcherson@ualr.edu (email is probably faster).

Samuel R. Atcherson, Ph.D., CCC/A
Chair, Audiology Admissions Committee

The masters (M.S.) education program in speech pathology and the doctoral (Au.D.) program in audiology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences/University of Arkansas at Little Rock are accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard #310, Rockville, Maryland, 20850, 800-498-2071 or 301-5700.

WHAT'S IN THIS APPLICATION PACKET?

1) UAMS/UALR DOCTOR OF AUDIOLOGY PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS—2011-2012

- a) THESE ARE THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE AU.D. PROGRAM

2) STEPS IN THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- a) PLEASE FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY, PARTICULARLY WHAT DOCUMENTS GO WHERE
- b) OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS (THROUGH FALL 2011) AND GRE SCORES MUST GO TO THE UAMS COLLEGE OF HEALTH RELATED PROFESSIONALS (CHRP) OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

3) RECOMMENDATION FORM

- a) RECOMMENDATION FORMS MUST COME FROM THREE FACULTY MEMBERS WHO HAVE TAUGHT OR SUPERVISED YOU.
- b) IF YOU HAVE BEEN OUT OF SCHOOL FOR A WHILE, OR ARE HAVING DIFFICULTY FINDING RECOMMENDERS, PLEASE LET US KNOW

4) APPLICATION FOR GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP

- a) THESE ARE COMPETITIVE PAID WORK OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS
- b) THIS IS OPTIONAL AND THROUGH AN ANNUAL APPLICATION PROCESS

5) ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS DOCUMENT AND SIGNATURE PAGE

- a) THIS IS REQUIRED READING AND MUST BE SIGNED PRIOR TO INITIAL ENROLLMENT IN THE PROGRAM

UAMS/UALR DOCTOR OF AUDIOLOGY PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS—2011-2012

1) ACADEMIC COURSE WORK (must maintain at least a 3.00 cumulative grade point average to progress)

Earn a minimum of 118 semester credits that will include:

- 80 semester credits of course work
- 6 semester credits of directed research
- 20 semester credits of clinical practicum
- 12 semester credits of clinical externship

2) SUCCESSFULLY MEET THE ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

3) SUCCESSFULLY PASS PRACTICAL EVALUATIONS

4) SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE A DIRECTED RESEARCH PROJECT

5) SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE **K**NOWLEDGE **A**ND **S**KILLS **A**CQUISITIONS OBJECTIVES (KASA)

6) SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE A COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

7) COMPLETE AN EXIT INTERVIEW WITH THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Steps in the Application Process - Deadline: February 1, 2011

STEP 1

Complete the Application for Admission

You will find both online and printable versions of the applications at:

<http://www.uams.edu/chrp/apply/default.asp>

Mail both the Application and your \$20.00 application fee to:

(Please make check payable to: UAMS College of Health Related Professions)

Office of Admissions

UAMS College of Health Related Professions

4301 West Markham Street, #619

Little Rock, AR 72205-7199

-----MAIL YOUR APPLICATION BEFORE PROCEEDING!-----

STEP 2

Have each college or university that you have attended send **an official transcript through Fall 2011** of your work directly to the CHRP Office of Admissions. "Official" means that the transcript must be sent by the registrar at the institution directly to CHRP. Copies sent or delivered by the applicant cannot be accepted.

STEP 3

Arrange for an official copy of your **GRE** scores to be sent to the

UAMS College of Health Related Professions. INSTITUTION CODE: 6146.

STEP 4

Have a three individuals complete and mail a **recommendation form** (a supplemental letter of recommendation is welcome) to the Audiology program at the address below:

AUSP Audiology Admissions Committee

UALR-UP 600

2801 South University Ave.

Little Rock, AR 72204

STEP 5

Send personal essay to the Audiology Admissions Committee at the address above.

Your letter should be no more than two (2) pages in length (single-spaced) using a 12 pt font

in a business letter format. In the letter you should tell us:

- 1) why you are choosing audiology
- 2) your short- and long-term career goals
- 3) why you chose to apply to our program
- 4) any other information about yourself you consider relevant

STEP 6

Contact the Chair of the Admissions Committee to schedule an interview with the faculty. It is preferred that the interview takes place during the scheduled Department's Open House for prospective students; however, other arrangements can be made if there is a schedule conflict. If a face-to-face interview is not feasible, a videoconference interview is an acceptable alternative.

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences/University of Arkansas at Little Rock Doctor of Audiology Program Recommendation Form
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To the applicant: This form is to be completed by a faculty member under whom you have studied, taught, or worked and who is able to comment on your qualifications for graduate study. If you have been out of school for some time or are having difficulty finding recommenders, please contact us.

Please type or print neatly this page and give this page and the second to your recommender to complete and mail or fax to us.

Applicant's Last Name	Applicant's First Name	Applicant's Middle Name

Street	City	State	Zip

Applicant's Phone Number	Applicant's Email Address

Name of Recommender	Title	Institution

If you are admitted to the Doctor of Audiology program, you have the right as a student to review your permanent record, including this recommendation form, which will be on file with the university. Some recommenders prefer not to complete recommendation forms unless they can be assured of the confidentiality of their comments. It is our opinion that comments provided on a confidential basis are likely to be more helpful to us in judging important characteristics such as creativity, originality, independence and research capability. Accordingly, the university is affording you the opportunity to waive your right of subsequent access to this recommendation. In any event, your application for admission and/or financial support will be given full consideration based on all the information in your application file, including this form, regardless of your decision on waiving your right of future review. Do you waive your right of subsequent access to this recommendation?

Under provisions of Public Law 93-380, the Family Education Rights Act, and under University guidelines pursuant to that act, a student (defined as any person who has been officially admitted and registered at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences) has the right to review recommendations made in her/his behalf unless the applicant waives this right at the time s/he solicits the recommendation. If you wish to waive your right to review, please indicate below.

	I hereby waive my right to review this recommendation
	I hereby DO NOT waive my right to review this recommendation

 APPLICANT SIGNATURE

 DATE

To the Recommender:

Please rate the applicant on a 1 – 5 scale with 5 indicating the applicant possesses the highest amount/level of that characteristic. If you are not able to judge in any particular category, please mark the far right column (Insufficient Information).

	5	4	3	2	1	Insufficient Information
Potential for successful completion of graduate studies						
Problem solving ability						
Motivation and initiative						
Reliability and dependability						
Maturity and stability						
Ability to work independently						
Ability to work with others						
Oral expression in English						
Written expression in English						

If desired, you may supplement this recommendation form with a written evaluation (on your department letterhead) of the applicant’s suitability as a graduate student.

How long have you known the applicant?

In what capacity have you known the applicant?

Printed name of recommender

Signature of recommender

Date

Recommender’s email address: _____

UPON COMPLETING THIS FORM, PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO: AUSP AUD ADMISSIONS, UALR-UP 600, 2801 S. UNIVERSITY AVE., LITTLE ROCK, AR 72204-7199 OR FAX TO 501-569-3157.

**UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY**

**APPLICATION FOR GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP
DOCTOR OF AUDIOLOGY PROGRAM**

Graduate assistants serve as clinic, teaching, research, and/or administrative assistants and must be enrolled in a full-time course of study (a minimum of 10 semester credits in the fall and spring semesters and at least seven (7) semester credits in the summer). Applicants must meet prerequisite requirements for regular, full-time admission to the Doctor of Audiology Program. Satisfactory academic performance must be maintained throughout the assistantship. For example, if a student earns a grade of "C" in any course, the graduate assistantship must be relinquished at the end of that semester.

YEAR OF ANTICIPATED ENROLLMENT: _____

UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR: _____

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

1. Name: _____

2. Race/ethnicity* _____ (Optional, but indication of race may assist in identifying candidates who may qualify for any available minority assistantships.)

3. Personal Information:

Date of birth: _____ / _____ / _____

Resident of Arkansas? Yes No

Citizen of the U.S.? Yes No

4. Current complete mailing address: _____

5. Permanent address: _____

6. Current phone: _____ Daytime phone: _____

Cell phone: _____ Email: _____

Permanent phone: _____

7. Colleges and universities attended with dates and degrees (if any):

Cumulative GPA: _____ GPA in major: _____

8. Scholastic honors and significant extracurricular activities:

9. Work experience:

10. Previous graduate assistantships:

11. What are your special interest areas in audiology (*i.e.*, hearing aids, early identification, *etc.*...

12. What is your preferred population with which to work?

Pediatric _____ Adult _____ Both _____ Undetermined _____

13. List any volunteer activities you have participated in that were related to audiology.

Please attach a 1-page, double-spaced, typed statement explaining why you wish to be considered for an audiology graduate assistantship.

DATE: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS DOCUMENT AND SIGNATURE PAGE

University of Arkansas at Little Rock University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology

Essential Functions of Candidates for Program Continuance

INTRODUCTION

The graduate degrees in Audiology (Au.D.) and Speech Pathology (M.S.) are recognized as broad degrees requiring the acquisition of general knowledge and basic skills in all applicable domains. The core curriculum is designed to support student attainment of the academic and clinical competencies needed for graduation, optional certification, and licensure. The education of speech-language pathologists and audiologists requires assimilation of knowledge, acquisition of skills, and development of judgment through client care experiences in preparation for independent and appropriate decisions required in practice. The current practices of speech-language pathology and audiology emphasize collaboration among audiologists, speech-language pathologists, other health care and education professionals, the client, and the client's family.

POLICY

The accredited graduate programs in speech-language pathology and audiology of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) / University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology (ASP) adhere to the standards set by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). Within ASHA standards, the ASP program has the freedom and ultimate responsibility for: the selection of students; the design, implementation, and evaluation of the curriculum; the evaluation of student progress; and, the determination of who should be awarded a degree.

The ASP faculty has a responsibility for the welfare of clients tested, treated, or otherwise affected by students enrolled in the programs. The department has the responsibility to the public to assure that its graduates can become fully competent audiologists and speech-language pathologists, capable of delivering quality care in a timely manner and preserving the well-being of the clients they serve. Thus, it is important that persons admitted, retained, and graduated possess the intelligence, integrity, compassion, humanitarian concern, and the physical and emotional capacity necessary to practice speech-language pathology or audiology.

The Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology, as part of the College of Professional Studies (UALR) and the College of Health Related Professions (UAMS), is committed to the principle of equal opportunity. The Universities, Colleges, and the Department do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, marital status, or disability. When requested, the Universities, Colleges, and the Department will provide reasonable accommodations to otherwise qualified students with properly certified disabilities. The ASP faculty has responsibility for the welfare of students in the department. In order to fulfill this responsibility, the department has established academic

standards and minimum essential requirements that must be met, with or without reasonable accommodations, in order to participate in the program and graduate.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

In order to acquire the knowledge and skills requisite to the practice of speech-language pathology or audiology to function in a broad variety of clinical situations, and to render a wide spectrum of client care, students must have essential skills and attributes in five areas: communication, motor, intellectual-cognitive, sensory-observational, and behavioral-social. These skills enable a student to meet graduate and professional requirements as measured by state and national credentialing agencies. Many of these skills can be learned and developed during the course of the graduate program through coursework and clinical experience. Failure to meet or maintain essential functions may result in action against the student, including, but not limited to, dismissal from the program.

Communication

A student must possess adequate communication skills to:

- Speak, hear and observe others for the purpose of eliciting and/or perceiving information.
- Communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written forms.
- Modify their communication style to meet diverse communicative needs.

Motor

A student must possess adequate motor skills to:

- Execute movements reasonably required to move from area to area, maneuver in small places, use equipment, materials and technology (i.e. microphones, hearing aids, computers, AAC devices, etc.) as needed to provide clients with appropriate general care.
- Access transportation to clinical and academic placements.
- Participate in classroom and clinical activities for the defined workday.

Intellectual / Cognitive

A student must possess adequate intellectual, ethical, emotional, and cognitive skills to:

- Achieve academic and clinical knowledge and skills.
- Participate in clinical settings and achieve the levels of competence required by the academic and clinical faculty and off-campus supervisors.
- Solve problems critical to the practice of speech-language pathology and audiology.
- Self evaluate, identify, and communicate limits of one's own knowledge and skills.
- Identify and utilize resources in order to increase knowledge and skills.
- Utilize detailed written and verbal instruction in order to make unique and independent decisions.
- Measure, calculate, reason, analyze, and synthesize as needed in the academic and clinical arenas.

Sensory / Observational

A student must possess adequate senses of vision and hearing to:

- Accurately observe clients and interpret and analyze their behaviors.

- Adequately treat clients and use equipment appropriately.

Behavioral / Social

A student must possess adequate behavioral and social attributes to:

- Display mature, empathetic, and effective professional relationships by exhibiting compassion, integrity, and concern for others.
- Recognize and show respect for individuals of different ages, genders, races, religions, sexual orientations, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, and disabilities.
- Recognize when a client's family does or does not understand the clinician's written and/or verbal communication.
- Maintain generally good emotional and mental health to fully utilize their intellectual abilities and exercise good judgment including prompt completion of all academic and clinical responsibilities.

Candidates for the Master of Science in Communicative Disorders (M.S.) and/or the Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) who have been accepted for admission will be required to verify that they understand and meet these essential functions. Admission decisions are made on the assumption that each candidate can meet the essential functions and fulfill essential functions without consideration of disability.

The *Disability Support Services* office at UALR will review a student's request for accommodation and confirm that the stated condition qualifies as a disability under applicable laws.

If an applicant states she/he can meet the essential functions with accommodation, then the department will determine whether it agrees that the student can meet the essential functions with reasonable accommodation; this includes a review of whether the accommodation would jeopardize client safety or the educational process of the student or the institution, including all coursework and internships/practicum placements deemed essential to graduation. At any time in the course of a student's enrollment in the department, should their needs change, the student can request accommodation through the *Disability Support Services* office.

Disability Support Services and the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology will jointly decide what accommodations are suitable and possible in terms of reasonable accommodation, and will render the person capable of performing all essential functions established by the program.

Reference: Adapted from the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders (2007)



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Please sign one of the following Essential Functions statements:

Statement for Students who are NOT Requesting Accommodations

I certify that I have read and understand the Essential Functions of Candidates for Program Admission and Continuance listed above and I believe to the best of my knowledge that I meet each of these standards without accommodation. I understand that if I am unable to meet these standards, I may be dismissed from the program.

 Signature of Applicant

_____/_____/_____
 Date

 Printed Name of Applicant

Statement for Students Requesting Accommodations

I certify that I have read and understand the Essential Functions of Candidates for Program Admission and Continuance listed above and I believe to the best of my knowledge that I can meet each of these standards with certain accommodations. I will contact the *Disability Support Services* Office to determine what accommodations may be available. I understand that if I am unable to meet these standards with or without accommodation, I may be dismissed from the program.

 Signature of Applicant

_____/_____/_____
 Date

 Printed Name of Applicant

Rev. 8-12-09