

## Audiologist

### ■ Job Description

An audiologist specializes in the prevention, identification, and assessment of hearing impairment; the habilitation and rehabilitation of persons with hearing impairments, including prescribing and working with hearing aids; and research on normal and impaired hearing. Audiologists work with children and adults, and often work as part of a team with other health professionals or with education specialists.

### ■ Job Settings

Public and private schools, clinics, hospitals, medical centers, vocational rehabilitation centers, private practice, industry, and government agencies

### ■ Projected Need

Nationally and in Illinois, employment of speech pathologists and audiologists is expected to grow much faster than average through 2010.

Speech and hearing disorders are related to birth defects and aging. Several factors will increase the number of people with these disorders. First, medical advances are allowing more premature babies and seriously injured people to survive. Developmental problems or injuries may cause speech or hearing disorders. Second, the number of elderly people is growing. This group is likely to experience age-related hearing disorders. Third, the general population is exposed to more noise than ever before. This may also increase the number of people with hearing loss.

The number of children enrolling in schools is expected to increase. In addition, federal law promises services to children with special needs. Thus, many jobs should be available in schools. The outlook for those in private practice is favorable because some employers prefer to use private contractors. Openings also occur from the need to replace people who leave the occupation.

In Illinois, there were about 550 people employed in this very small occupation in 2000.

### ■ Salaries

Nationally, the median wage for audiologists is \$22.55 per hour. Half of all audiologists earn between \$18.50 and \$27.64 per hour.

In Illinois, audiologists earn a median wage of \$23.63 per hour.

### ■ Related Careers

Speech/language pathology; special education; linguistics; behavioral sciences, including psychology and child psychology; medicine; rehabilitative therapies

### ■ Related Educational Programs

The programs of study listed below are the recommended areas of study to pursue for this occupation. Clicking on these will lead to files that show in-state and national schools that offer these programs.

*The following link(s) will take you to CIS for more information. CIS requires an ID and password that can be obtained at <http://cis.ilworkinfo.com/loginhelp/> You must log into CIS prior to clicking on the links below.*

### [Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology](#)

### ■ Credentials

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) offers speech-language pathologists the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP) and audiologists the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology (CCC-A). To earn these certifications, a person must have a graduate degree and 375 hours of supervised clinical experience, complete a 36-week postgraduate clinical fellowship, and pass a written exam.

In 2007, audiologists will need to have a bachelor's degree and complete 75 hours of credit toward a doctoral degree in order to seek certification. As of 2012, ASHA will require a doctoral degree to award certification in audiology.

Speech language-pathologists and audiologists must be licensed by the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation to practice in Illinois.

### ■ **Advanced Training**

Master's and/or doctoral degrees in audiology or speech and hearing science are available in Illinois at Governors State University, Rush University, St. Xavier University, Eastern Illinois University, Illinois State University, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and Edwardsville, Northern Illinois University, Northwestern University, University of Illinois at Urbana, and Western Illinois University.

### ■ **Resources**

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
10801 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852  
Phone: 800.638.8255  
E-mail: [actioncenter@asha.org](mailto:actioncenter@asha.org)  
<http://www.asha.org>  
Click on "Students" then on "Learn About the Professions."

The association offers various research grants and scholarships of up to \$5,000 to study communication sciences and disorders.

Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
230 E. Ohio Street, Suite 400  
Chicago, IL 60611  
<http://www.ishail.org>