



AUDIOLOGY

Audiology at the Cleveland Clinic

Audiology is a highly recognized healthcare profession and has been ranked by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of the Best Careers for the past several years. Audiologists in the Integrated Surgical Institute, Head & Neck Department, Section of Audiology at the Cleveland Clinic provide comprehensive state-of-the-art audiologic assessment and re/habilitative management services for patients of all ages using evidence-based clinical practices. Audiologists at the Cleveland Clinic provide comprehensive hearing and balance health care to patients of all ages. They specialize in pediatric and adult diagnostic hearing and balance evaluations and audiologic and vestibular rehabilitation including behavioral and electrophysiologic assessment of the auditory system; hearing aid selection and fitting; other hearing assistive technologies; tinnitus management; vestibular assessment and treatment; and counseling/education for hearing aid users and patients with tinnitus. The Hearing Implant Program (HIP) offers all aspects of audiologic management for patients across the lifespan with cochlear implants, and bone-anchored integrated hearing implant systems. Additional services of the HIP program include communication assessments of children who are deaf or hard of hearing, auditory-verbal therapy, and other auditory-based therapies across the lifespan.

Northeast Ohio Au.D. Consortium (NOAC)

In 2005, The Audiology program at the Cleveland Clinic, the School of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology at The University of Akron, and the School of Speech Pathology and Audiology at Kent State University united efforts to form The Northeast Ohio Au.D. Consortium (NOAC). The goal of the collaborative nature of the Consortium is to merge the strong assets of two university programs focusing on the scientific and clinical bases of audiology with the Section of Audiology offering students clinical exposure to the breadth and depth of contemporary audiologic diagnosis and treatment. The strengths of each institution including academic and clinical faculties, resources, and facilities are combined into one unified Au.D. program. The Au.D. degree is granted either through The University of Akron or Kent State University depending upon which academic institution the student is enrolled. The mission of NOAC is to provide Ohio with a pool of independent and competent professional audiologists. The consortium seeks to:

- Prepare audiologists through professional education and clinical training who can diagnose, treat, and manage individuals with hearing and balance disorders.
- Enhance service to the professional community through continuing education, mentoring, consulting, and joint research
- Provide for research and clinical service through external funding from federal, state, and local agencies.

The doctoral program consists of a continuous 4-year, post-baccalaureate course that integrates classroom, laboratory, and clinical experiences. The program emphasizes the principles and practices underlying diagnosis, treatment, and provision of hearing health care services. Students complete their fourth-year externship under the guidance of audiology preceptors at the Cleveland Clinic who assume responsibility as the primary clinical educators. This unique affiliation between the Cleveland Clinic, The University of Akron, and Kent State University serves as a national model for Au.D. programs and in October 2006 was the recipient of the *Award for Educational Excellence* by the Audiology Foundation of America.