

Become a Hearing Aid Specialist

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, employment of Hearing Aid Specialists is expected to grow 8% or more by 2029, much faster than the average for all occupations. An aging population is anticipated to lead to greater demand for hearing healthcare services. Hearing aid specialists are finding employment in group or private practices.



The Role of a Hearing Aid Specialist

Hearing Aid Specialists are allied health professionals who have the training, knowledge and experience required to address the amplification needs of individuals with hearing loss. The primary employment responsibilities include:

- Administering and interpreting tests of auditory function
- Recommending amplification options
- Making ear impressions
- Fitting and dispensing hearing instruments
- Verifying and validating hearing instrument fittings
- Counseling regarding hearing loss
- Providing aural rehabilitation including options for assistive listening devices
- Providing comprehensive post-fitting care

How to Prepare for Becoming a Hearing Aid Specialist

Use this handy Roadmap to Success to get a sense of the path to licensure, but be sure to contact your licensing agency for specific requirements in your jurisdiction. Professional preparation to become a Hearing Aid Specialist can be attained through **two pathways**:

The Workplace Training Approach

This approach, combining study and on-the-job training, is a more common pathway for entry into the dispensing profession. In many states and provinces, a training or apprenticeship period must be completed before a candidate is eligible to take the licensing examination(s). Through these apprenticeships, the knowledge and skill sets necessary for safe and effective clinical practice are acquired under the supervision of an appropriately licensed/registered hearing healthcare professional. Fundamental knowledge is gained through IHS' standardized curriculum.



IHS' Distance Learning for Professionals in Hearing Health Sciences course is the premier study program for aspiring hearing healthcare professionals. When paired with on-the-job training, the course primes qualified students with knowledge and helps prepare them for competency exams. Some states require or recommend use of the course for licensure as a hearing aid specialist.

OR The Academic Training Model

Academic training is available at a few colleges in the U.S. and Canada. Available college programs for Hearing Instrument Sciences include:

- George Brown
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- Conestoga College
Kitchener, Ontario, Canada
- Grant MacEwan University
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
- Spokane Falls Community College
Spokane, Washington
- College of DuPage
Glen Ellyn, Illinois