

Comprehensive Examinations for AuD Students

Overview: AuD students take their written comprehensive examination after successfully completing eight semesters (i.e. spring semester of year 3). To pass the written exam, students must 1) obtain correct scores on at least 225 out of 300 items (75%), and 2) obtain correct scores on at least 70% of items in each content area (i.e. pediatric audiology, prevention and identification, amplification, etc.). An oral exam is scheduled one week after the written exam for any students who score less than 70% in any content area(s). Although the examination dates change annually, students will be notified by the AuD Program Coordinator by March 1 regarding the specific date and room number for the written examination. The written exam assesses knowledge of audiology and speech-language pathology gained in undergraduate and graduate courses and clinics. Although the majority of questions on the exam are audiology questions, *the exam contains some items from the complementary discipline of Speech-Language Pathology.*

Format: The test is a **timed multiple-choice exam**. There are 300 items (1 point each; total 300 points) on the exam. Students record their answers on Scantron forms. The test is administered in three parts (A, B, and C). Students have *two hours to complete each part*; thus, students are expected to block out the day for the exam. Typically, Part A is scheduled from 8:00-10:00 am. A fifteen-minute break is scheduled between the first two parts of the exam. Part B is scheduled from 10:15 -12:15. Then students are allowed 45 minutes to break for lunch on their own. Finally, Part C is scheduled from 1:00-3:00 pm.

Students who complete any part of the exam in less than two hours and who then wish to leave the room may do so after turning in their examination papers to the faculty proctor. Students will not be allowed to leave the room and return while any portion of the exam is still in process, unless a physician's note documenting a medical condition is provided by the student. Books, notes, cell phones, calculators, scratch papers, etc. are not permitted in the examination room. Students are required to bring a #2 pencil. Scantron forms and paper copies of the exam will be provided to students. Students are allowed to make notations on the paper copies of exams, but Scantron answers are the only answers that will be scored for the test. When the exam is completed, all exam hard copies and Scantron forms must be turned in to the faculty proctor before the exam can be processed. **Students are encouraged to answer all questions**; there is no penalty for guessing. Questions require students to demonstrate knowledge of facts, to analyze/interpret data, to solve clinical problems, and to apply ethical decision-making and judgement to professional issues.

Content: Similar to the audiology PRAXIS exam, about 70% of the comprehensive written exam includes the *assessment and treatment* of hearing, balance, and related disorders. Approximately 14% of the exam covers *foundations*, 6% of the exam covers *prevention and identification*, and the remaining 10% of the exam covers *professional issues*. While all content areas are important, the number of test items per content area varies on the exam. For more detailed information about content categories, please consult http://www.asha.org/Certification/praxis/aud_content/

Test Scoring and Next Steps: Examinations are scored by the AuD Program Coordinator, who will sum total correct answers across all three parts of the exam. An overall passing score on the exam is 75% or greater (≥ 225 correct items out of 300 total items) and $\geq 70\%$ in all content areas. Results will be reported to students via email within 24 hours of completion of the written exam. Students who receive a score of “Pass” will have completed the examination. Students who score less than 70% in any content area(s) will participate in an oral exam one week after the written exam. Students will be notified via email regarding content areas that will be covered in the oral examination. In the case of a failed written exam, a faculty advisor will provide students with information about content areas most frequently in error on the exam. Students are encouraged to reach out to professors in content areas for additional feedback prior to the oral examination. Irrespective of the outcome on the written examination, students will not be informed of specific scores and will not be able to review their examinations. The oral exam will cover the content most extensively in error on the original test. Following the oral exam, students may receive feedback that indicates a “Pass” outcome. Students who do not receive a “Pass” outcome after the oral exam may be asked to complete additional assignments. In some cases, the faculty committee may allow students who have additional assignments to complete the assignments *after* beginning the full-time clinical placement. Students are expected to successfully complete the comprehensive exams. If a student fails to successfully complete any additional assignment(s) in the time allotted, then the student will no longer be eligible for the degree that he/she is seeking*.

Any additional questions about the comprehensive exams for AuD students may be addressed to the AuD Program Coordinator (mary-a-hudson@ouhsc.edu).

*Successful completion of the AuD program curriculum, clinical experiences, and first- and second-year clinical assessments shows ongoing *formative* performance. The first-year clinical assessment is over hearing evaluation for adults. The second-year clinical assessments cover hearing instruments and pediatric assessment. Successful completion of the comprehensive examination(s) and third-year clinical assessments for the AuD degree shows *summative* performance. The third-year clinical assessments cover physiologic measures and balance assessment. Students must successfully complete both formative and summative assessments to earn the AuD degree from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.