

Comprehensive Examinations for Doctor of Audiology (AuD) Students
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Overview: Doctor of Audiology (AuD) students at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) will take a written comprehensive examination in **January**, on the Friday before the start of the spring semester of Year 3 (e.g. eighth semester). An oral examination, if needed, is held one week later, on the first Friday of the spring semester. To pass the written exam, students must obtain 1) correct scores on at least 225 out of 300 (75%) multiple-choice items (75%), and 2) correct scores on at least 70% of items in each of FIVE content areas, including: 1) assessment, 2) treatment, 3) prevention, screening, and identification, 4) foundations, and 5) professional/ethical issues. Content questions may include items relevant to individuals with hearing loss and related auditory disorders as well as balance difficulties. An oral exam, one week after the written exam, is scheduled for any student who scores less than 70% in any content area(s). Although exam dates change annually, the AuD program coordinator will notify students about the dates and locations for the exams. 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: Students take the written exam via computer (e.g. D2L/Lockdown Browser) while on campus during proctored sessions. Students are strongly encouraged to ensure that they have the most recent version of Lockdown Browser installed before the day of the exam. In the unlikely event of technical difficulties, back-up computers are available if needed.

The written exam consists of **300 multiple-choice questions**. The test is given in five parts (e.g. A-E). Students will have one minute per test item for a total test time of up to five hours.

- Part A (Assessment, 105 items) will be given in a 105-minute session.
- Parts B (Intervention, 75 items) and C (Prevention, Screening, Identification, 30 items) will be given in a 105-minute session.
- Parts D (Foundations, 60 items) and E (Professional/Ethical Issues, 30 items) will be given in a 90-minute session.

A short break is provided between the first two sessions. A lunch break occurs between the second and third sessions. The schedule is below:

Exam Session 1: Part A: 8:00 am - 9:45 am

Break: 9:45-10:00 am

Exam Session 2: Parts B and C: 10:00 am - 11:45 am

Lunch Break: 11:45 am – 12:30 pm (lunch on your own)

Exam Session 3: Parts D and E: 12:30-2:00 pm

Students who complete any part of the exam early may leave the room quietly after turning in any “scratch” paper to the exam proctor. Proctors will provide scratch paper to students and collect it for every test session. Students are expected to sign all scratch paper before returning it to the proctor.

Students will not be allowed to leave the exam room and return while any portion of the exam is still in progress, unless a physician's note documenting a medical condition is provided by the student. Books, notes, cell phones, calculators are not permitted in the examination room. 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 judgment to professional issues and clinical scenarios.

Content: Similar to the Audiology Praxis exam (5343), approximately 60% of the comprehensive exam includes questions about the assessment and treatment of hearing, balance, and related disorders. The remaining 40% of the exam covers prevention, identification, screening (10%), foundational items (20%), and professional/ethical issues (10%). For additional information about content categories, please see the praxis study companion at <https://www.ets.org/praxis/prepare/materials/5343>

Scoring & Next Steps: The AuD program coordinator scores the exams and provides written feedback to students within 24 hours of exam completion. An overall passing exam score is 75% or greater (at least 225/300 items correct) and 70% or greater in all FIVE content areas. Students who receive a score of "Pass" on the written exam 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. Students are expected to successfully complete the comprehensive exams and any required follow-up work during the eighth semester before enrollment in full-time clinical practicum in the summer of year 3 (e.g. on or around June 1). 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 Hudson, PhD at 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.