

PROPOSED PROGRAM SUMMARY

Institution: University of Kentucky
Program Name: Audiology
Degree Destination: Doctor of Audiology

CIP Code: 51.0202

Credit Hours: 104

Implementation Date: 8/1/2025

Program Description

The proposed Doctor of Audiology in Audiology at the University of Kentucky will be a three-year, nine-semester advanced practice doctoral degree providing the necessary academic and clinical experiences for students to enter audiologic practice upon graduation. The format of the degree, including the externship, is consistent with the structure of existing audiology degree programs across the country and will meet audiology state licensure and national certification requirements, as well as programmatic accreditation standards.

As a result of this program, graduates will be able to:

- qualify for state licensure and/or professional certification in audiology;
- apply critical thinking skills and reason and judgement to solve complex audiology problems; and
- demonstrate clinical skills essential to delivering services to a wide range of populations.

Connection to Other Programs

The University of Kentucky currently offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in a related field, speech pathology. The University of Louisville has the only Audiology degree program in the commonwealth and will average eight completions, annually. Sufficient student and market demand exist for an additional program in this field.

Student Demand

Initial estimates of enrollment are:

Year 1 – 5

Year 2 – 10

Year 3 – 15

Year 4 – 20

Year 5 – 25

Employment Demand

This program will address a shortage of audiologists, both in Kentucky and across the country. A job market analysis conducted for the proposed program indicated that demand for audiologists is expected to grow at twice the rate of all occupations over the next 10 years. Most Kentucky counties have relatively high percentages of persons with hearing loss, yet the number of audiologists per county in the commonwealth is quite low in most of the state. According to the American-Speech-Language-Hearing Association, there are 3.0 audiologists

per 100,000 individuals in Kentucky, which ranks 47th in the country. Anecdotally, audiology positions at UK Healthcare often remain unfilled for extended periods of time.

Budget

Recurring general fund dollars will be used to support the program director position, and tuition will be used to support the remaining faculty positions. Until tuition is generated, UK Healthcare has committed to provide funds to help with the start-up of the program, including purchasing necessary equipment and supporting faculty salaries.

Projected Revenue over Next Five Years (\$):	\$ 2,276,362
Projected Expenses over Next Five Years (\$):	\$ 2,019,950