OVERVIEW OF REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AUD DEGREE

Updated 10/01/12

Upon admission to the program, each student is assigned a faculty adviser. The faculty adviser helps the student select a program of study to meet all program requirements. The AuD Program is a four-year program, including summer semesters after years 1 through 3. An exact unit minimum is not specified due to the mixing of semester units (SDSU) and quarter units (UCSD) and differences in clinical hours at different settings; however, the program is approximately 140 semester-equivalent course units. All students in the AuD Program fulfill the following requirements. Any alternative method of fulfilling these requirements requires advanced written permission from the program co-directors.

**Prerequisites**
One course in statistics, one course in biological science, one course in physical science
One additional course in biological or physical science
Two courses in behavioral/social sciences
One course in American Sign Language (minimum of beginning level)
Proficiency in oral and written English (degree from a US university, TOEFL, and/or interview)

**Residency Requirements**
After formal admission to the AuD program, the student must complete a minimum of course hours equivalent to one year of full-time enrollment at each campus. The definition of residence must be in accord with the regulations of San Diego State University and the University of California, San Diego. The program is designed to be shared, as equally as possible, between the two campuses. The first year is entirely at SDSU, the second year is entirely at UCSD, and the third year has options from both campuses. The fourth year of the program is a full-time clinical externship at a program-approved clinic agency/site. Both campuses share equally in the academic, clinic, and research components of the program.

**Course Requirements**
The academic (didactic) course requirement for each student is a structured lock-step curriculum (e.g., everyone takes essentially the same set of courses in the same sequence (see schedule on the following page). The student should meet with his or her faculty adviser to be sure the correct courses are being taken each semester. The didactic courses for Years 1, 3, and 4 courses are taken at SDSU and for Year 2 are taken at UCSD. There are 28 didactic courses (not counting audiology clinic, staffings, or doctoral project).

**Clinic Requirements**
Each student progresses through a variety of clinical experiences involving patient assessment and management throughout their program of study. Clinic experiences require concurrent enrollment in clinic courses appropriate for the campus in which they are doing the clinical work. These supervised clinical experiences are completed in the SDSU Audiology Clinic, UCSD Otology Clinic, and in community field sites. Clinic courses may be repeated as needed and require adviser approval prior to enrollment. Each student obtains clinical experiences across the 4 years and accumulate, approximately, the following clinical hours:

- **Year 1:** 100 hours
- **Year 2:** 250 hours
- **Year 3:** 800 hours
- **Year 4:** 1,850 hours

**Total:** 3,000 hours
All students have at least one quarter of a clinical rotation with otology staff associated with UCSD. Students accompany one of the otology faculty during their clinics and receive training in one or more of the following areas: clinical otology, pre- and post-operative assessment of patients, pharmacology related to otology, design and implementation of clinical trials with balance disorders, and pediatric otology. Students enrolled in clinical practicum or fieldwork are provided general and professional liability insurance through the California State University System’s Student Professional Liability Insurance Program (SPLIP). Courses covered under the policy: AUD 701, 801, 831, 871 (at SDSU) and AUD 284, 236 (at UCSD).

**Clinical Staffings**

In addition, all students are required to regularly participate in formal clinical case study/staffing experiences. At SDSU, these clinical staffings include student and faculty presentations and discussions of interesting cases seen in their clinics. At UCSD, these staffings include the Chairman’s Conference, where AuD students/residents and medical staff discuss otological problem diseases and disorders, and the Neurotology Conference, where UCSD and community physicians, and students/residents discuss cases dealing with neurological diseases and vestibular disorders.

**Year Four Externship**

The fourth year externship is a fulltime clinical experience in an approved agency/site. These externships may require a competitive interview process by the agency. Externship sites may be in other parts of the country. All students in their fourth-year externship must also enroll in the online clinical seminar at SDSU in the fall and spring semesters.

**Research Practicum Requirement**

Each student spends at least one semester participating in research being done by program faculty. Students do not conduct independent research, but do actively participate in data collection and analysis at the discretion of the lab director. Students must enroll in the research practicum course for the appropriate campus.

**Examinations**

All students in the program will be evaluated at the end of years 1 and 2 to assess their ability to understand and integrate the appropriate academic material and clinic procedures. The First Year Qualifying Examination consists of a three-hour written examination, and the Second Year Qualifying Examination includes a three-hour written test and a three-hour practical test. During the third year, and after Advancement to Candidacy (see below), the student takes a written Comprehensive Examination. The National Examination in Audiology (given by Praxis) may be used to satisfy the third-year Comprehensive Examination if the score is 610 or higher. Students are responsible for signing up to take the Praxis on one of the available dates in winter or spring of the third year. Students must take the Praxis to be eligible for some externships, temporary license, and permanent license, and achieve a passing score (>600). A student may, however, choose to take a separate, written Third-Year Comprehensive Exam given by the AuD program.

**Advancement to Candidacy**

Candidates are recommended for advancement to candidacy after successfully completing all course, laboratory rotation, and clinic requirements for Year 1 and Year 2 (with a minimum grade point average of 3.0), satisfactory performance on the First- and Second-Year Qualifying Examinations, and approval of the doctoral project summary/proposal. Students may not enroll in the doctoral project course, take the Comprehensive Examination, or register for Externship until advanced to candidacy. The program’s Executive Committee recommends students eligible for advancement to candidacy to the graduate deans of both institutions.
**Doctoral Project**

Each student completes an innovative doctoral project. Most doctoral projects involve the independent collection and analysis of data. However, with permission, the doctoral project can take other forms, such as evidenced-based position paper, critical literature review with applications to clinical problem solving, grant proposal, development of clinical protocol based on published research findings, or other projects proposed by the student that are accepted by the committee. Minimally, the project consists of a literature review centered on a specific aspect relevant to clinical audiology, followed by an assessment or projection of impact upon existing clinical practices. The project should be designed to allow an opportunity to demonstrate critical thinking on clinical issues. Each student selects a Doctoral Project Committee comprised of two AuD Program faculty members (one from each campus) and a third committee member approved by the Doctoral Project chair. The chair of the committee can be from either campus. The committee chair, co-directors, and graduate deans from each campus approve each student’s Doctoral Project Committee. All doctoral projects are written in a format approved by the student’s Doctoral Project Committee. The student’s final written document must be approved by the student’s Doctoral Project Committee prior to an oral presentation of the project in an open forum. Each student enrolls in the appropriate doctoral project course depending on the campus in which their committee chair resides.

**Award of the Degree**

The Doctor of Audiology (AuD) degree is awarded jointly by the Regents of the University of California and the Trustees of The California State University in the names of both cooperating institutions.