



NOVA SOUTHEASTERN
UNIVERSITY

Department of Audiology

Course Syllabus

Audiologist's Assistants Amplification Module

Faculty of Record,
Course development by:
Teri Hamill, Ph.D., FAAA, CCC-A
hamillt@nova.edu

Nova Southeastern University
Department of Audiology
College of Health Care Sciences
3200 South University Drive
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33328-2018
(954) 262-7745
Fax (954) 262-2908

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course trains the audiologist's assistant to assist patients in learning to use and care for hearing aids. The assistant will be able to recognize different hearing aid styles, insert and remove them, and manipulate their switches and controls and change their batteries. The assistant will be able to troubleshoot defective hearing aids, make simple in-office repairs, conduct electroacoustic analysis of hearing aids and know when to send hearing aids for manufacturer repair. The assistant will demonstrate understanding of how to modify the

fit of custom products and earmolds, measure and fit earwires/thin tubes and domes. The assistant will recognize the different available assistive devices and be able to discuss these options with patients. The assistant will be trained to make earmold/shell impressions and to follow infection control procedures.

MATERIALS:

You will need:

- the assistance of your supervising audiologist
- ability to edit Word documents, and access the internet using Windows Explorer
- windows 95, 98 or XP or Vista computer with Microsoft Word 2003 or higher
- FLASH software to view videos online. (Your computer should alert you if you do not have the software installed, and it should guide you through how to install the latest free version.)
- this course workbook
- your N number and log in information to access the Blackboard internet platform, on which the course materials are posted.

OUTCOMES:

Following successful completion of this course, the student will be able to assist an audiologist with services related to hearing aid care and use. Specifically, the student will be able to:

- define the role of the audiologist's assistant and the audiologist.
- recognize the major anatomical structures of the ear.
- use an otoscope to inspect the external ear canal.
- understand how frequency and intensity are represented on scientific graphs and on audiograms.
- clean and sterilize instrumentation and tools.
- recognize the legal requirements for hearing aid dispensing.
- recognize the different types of hearing aids.
- insert and remove all types of hearing aids.
- identify battery size when viewing batteries and hearing aid battery doors.
- discuss battery hazards with patients.
- test hearing aid batteries.
- teach patients how to insert, remove and adjust all types of hearing aids.
- teach patients to properly use the phone while wearing hearing aids.
- teach patients how to care for their hearing aids.
- make earmold/shell impressions with or without a video otoscope.
- troubleshoot hearing aids.
- clean hearing aids and make in-office repairs by cleaning microphones, receivers, vents, and earmolds/earhooks; dehumidifying aids; retube earmolds; replace battery doors and remove lodged batteries.
- Fit receiver in the ear domes and earwires; change out receivers and earwires.

- conduct electroacoustic analysis of hearing aids.
- complete hearing aid repair forms and send hearing aids for manufacturer repair.
- enter patient information on a NOAH system and connect hearing aids to a NOAH platform.
- assist the audiologist in collecting outcomes measurement data.
- recognize the types of assistive devices and describe some of the options to patients if instructed to do so by the audiologist.
- demonstrate professionalism in dealing with patients and be able to describe ways in which the assistant can enhance the audiology practice.

TIME LINES:

You can complete the course material at your own pace; however, the course must be completed within 6 months of registration. Students registering for both courses (diagnostics and amplification) simultaneously are given 12 months to complete the two modules. Failure to complete the course in this time will result in the incomplete assignments having a grade of zero. Students have the option of re-enrolling in the course (at an additional \$75.00 cost) in order to extend the course time by another 6 months.

It is estimated that you will only need 2 to 3 months to complete the course materials. If you wish to complete the course as quickly as possible, have the time to dedicate to studying the material, and if your supervisor is willing to provide you the clinical training in an expedited fashion, the course can be completed in as little as a few weeks.

COURSE STRUCTURE: There are different types of activities you will engage in during this course.

You will access the NSU Blackboard site (one way is via mako.nova.edu – notice, do **not** use www.nova.edu.) site for this course. This site will provide you with:

- an electronic version of this syllabus.
- the web-based course modules that provide you with the specific instructions for each assignment.
- FLASH-based audio narrated slide shows
- self-quizzes and tests
- the forms you need to complete.
- a copy of the master signature list, which is how your supervising audiologist documents that you have completed the assignments. The master list is submitted when you have finished with the course. a listing of the grades you have earned in the course.

You will view other websites to gain additional information on selected topics.

You will obtain **clinical training** directly from your supervising audiologist. Specific clinical assignments will be made. You will know which assignment to complete, in which order, from the web-based instruction material. You and your supervising audiologist will document completion of the assignments, which are a part of your course grade. Assignment forms are completed in Word and submitted to the website. Final credit is not given until the Master Signature List has been received, signed off by the licensed audiologist who is sponsoring the training.

You will take graded tests on-line. There will be a limited amount of time to take each test, so you will need to have mastered the material. There will not be enough time to look up the answers. The practice quizzes will provide you with an indication of when you are ready to take the tests.

GRADING

To earn the frameable certificate of completion from NSU's Audiology Department for successfully completing this course module, the student needs to earn a minimum of 80 points. Points come from completing assignments and taking tests. There is an opportunity to earn up to 100 points; 50 from activities and 50 from taking tests that demonstrate your understanding of the material in this course.

There are 26 clinical training activities. Assignment forms found on the course website will list the specific requirements of these activities. You will complete them together with your supervising audiologist. The different activities have points assigned to them. Many of the activities will be awarded full credit for completion within the permitted timeframe. Some activities have points awarded based on your level of proficiency, as evaluated by the supervising audiologist. The assignments together are worth up to 50 points. If you have already completed the companion module, Audiologist's Assistant Program Diagnostic Testing Module, you will not have to complete assignments that you have already completed as part of that program. However, you will need to take the tests which contain information on the content area from those assignments.

There are five unit tests, taken on-line. As described above, these tests are taken in a time-limited format. As discussed previously, while they are not closed-book, you will not have enough time to look up the answers to each question. Your grade on those five tests will be averaged together, and the test average will be used to assign the remaining 50 points in the course. (For example, if your test average is 90%, you earn 45 points.) There is no provision for retaking tests on which you do poorly, nor is there the opportunity to drop a low test score. Please be sure to take the self-quizzes to make sure you are ready to take the tests.

ACCREDITATION AND NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION:

Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097; Telephone number 407 697-4501) to award bachelor's, master's, education specialist's and doctoral degrees.

Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sex, age, nondisqualifying disability, religion or creed or ethnic origin.

This course does NOT award college credit. It is a certificate based program.

ADVISEMENT OF NECESSITY TO FOLLOW STATE LICENSURE LAWS

Some states have specific requirements, such as a certain number of college credits, in order to qualify to work as an assistant. The university's legal counsel has advised the department that we are not permitted to interpret state law to guide you in determining if you do or do not meet your state's licensure requirements. The first assignment in the course is to review your state licensure laws. If you find that you cannot qualify to work as an assistant because of the licensing requirements in your state, recognize that as you start the first assignment, and if you return the materials in original form, you will receive a refund, minus the shipping and handling charge.

NOTE TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Please carefully review this syllabus. Note that the course requires you to see web and computer materials, listen to narrated slide shows on the computer, and take timed tests. Clinical activities must be completed, which may involve use of manually operated equipment. If you have a disability which you believe will interfere with your ability to successfully complete the course requirements, you should notify the course coordinator within 1 week of receiving this material.