

**Inherent Requirements for the Bachelor of Applied Science and Master of Clinical
Audiology (HZHCCA) and
Master of Clinical Audiology (HMAUD), La Trobe University**

Introduction

The discipline of Clinical Audiology at La Trobe University is an allied health profession incorporating the practical application of scientific, medical and clinical knowledge in the area of hearing and balance. Graduates work with people affected by hearing or balance problems.

To support potential and current students' decision making when applying for Clinical Audiology a series of inherent requirement statements has been developed. These statements specify the course requirements of the entry level Clinical Audiology courses for student admission and progression. The statements are clustered under eight domains consisting of Ethical Behaviour, Behavioural Stability, Legal, Communication, Cognition, Sensory Abilities, Strength and Mobility and Sustainable Performance. Many of the activities associated with the professional practice of a registered Clinical Audiology are time sensitive, where the capacity to perform certain activities within specified time limits is required to reduce or avoid risks to client safety and wellbeing. The safety and wellbeing of you and others is always of paramount importance.

Successfully completing the course enables you to apply for registration as a registered Clinical Audiologist with Audiology Australia (AA).

How to read the inherent requirement statements

If you are intending to enrol in Clinical Audiology at La Trobe University you should look at these inherent requirement statements and think about whether you may experience challenges in meeting these requirements.

If you think you may experience challenges related to your disability, chronic health condition or any other reason, you should discuss your concerns with a campus Disability Advisor or the Academic Course Advisor. These staff can work collaboratively with you to determine reasonable adjustments to assist you to meet the Inherent Requirements. In the case where it is determined that Inherent Requirements cannot be met with reasonable adjustments, the University staff can provide guidance regarding other study options.

These inherent requirements should be read in conjunction with other course information and Professional Practice Standards and Code of Conduct outlined for Clinical Audiologists by [Audiology Australia](#).

Each inherent requirement is made up of the following five levels:

- Level 1 - introduction to the inherent requirement
- Level 2 - description of what the inherent requirement is
- Level 3 - explanation of why this is an inherent requirement of the course

- Level 4 - the nature of any adjustments that may be made to allow you to meet the requirement
- Level 5 - examples of things you must be able to do to show you've met the requirement

There are eight domains of inherent requirements in the discipline of Clinical Audiology. Some domains have a number of sub-domains.

- Ethical behaviour
- Behavioural stability
- Legal
- Communication
- Cognition
- Sensory abilities
- Strength & mobility
- Sustainable performance

Inherent requirement statements

Ethical behaviour

Level	
1	Clinical Audiology is a profession governed by codes, guidelines and policies where practitioners are both accountable and responsible for ensuring professional behaviour in all contexts.
2	Student demonstrates knowledge of, and engages in ethical behaviour in practice.
	Justification of inherent requirement:
3	» Compliance with the codes, guidelines and policies facilitates safe, competent interactions and relationships for students and/or the people they engage with. This ensures the physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of the individual is not placed at risk
4	Adjustments must not compromise codes, guidelines and policies or result in unethical behaviour.
	Exemplars:
5	» Complying with academic and non-academic misconduct policies » Demonstrating appropriate behaviour with confidential information in classroom and clinical settings

Behavioural stability

Level	Inherent Requirement Statements
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1	Behavioural stability is required to function and adapt effectively and sensitively in a demanding role.
2	Student demonstrates behavioural stability to work constructively in a diverse and changing academic and clinical environment.
3	Justification of Inherent Requirement: » Behavioural stability is required to work individually and in teams in changing and unpredictable environments. Clinical Audiology students will be exposed to health care and disability contexts in which they will encounter human suffering, and will be required to have behavioural stability to manage these situations in a professional manner.
4	Adjustments must support stable, effective and professional behaviour in both academic and clinical settings.
5	Exemplars: » Reflecting on practice and responding appropriately to constructive feedback » Coping with own emotions and behaviour effectively when dealing with individuals in the clinical setting

Legal

Level	Inherent Requirement Statements
1	Clinical Audiological practice is mandated by specific legal and regulatory requirements and standards to enable the safe delivery of care.
2	Student demonstrates knowledge and compliance with Australian Law and professional regulatory requirements and standards, which dictates the scope of Audiology practice.
3	Justification of Inherent Requirement: » Knowledge, understanding and compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements and standards are necessary pre-requisites to clinical placements, to reduce the risk of harm to self and others » Compliance with the Australian Law and professional regulatory requirements and standards ensures that students are both responsible and accountable for their practice

4	Adjustments must be consistent with legislative and regulatory requirements.
5	Exemplars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Complying with the requirements for student registration with Audiology Australia (AA) » Complying with the policies of clinical and clinical placement facilities

Communication

This course requires effective, verbal, non-verbal and written communication skills.

Verbal

Inherent requirement statements	
1	Effective and efficient verbal communication, in English (or if appropriate the client's language of choice).
2	Student demonstrates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The ability to understand and respond to verbal communication accurately, appropriately and in a timely manner » The ability to provide clear instructions in the context of the situation » Timely clear feedback and reporting
Justification of inherent requirement:	
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Adequate communication with clients is essential to the diagnosis and management process » Timely, accurate and effective delivery of information is important for client safety, diagnosis and management.
4	Adjustments for impaired verbal communication must address effectiveness, timeliness, clarity and accuracy issues to ensure client safety.
Exemplars:	
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Participating in tutorial, simulation and clinical discussions » Establishing rapport with clients and responding appropriately to requests from clients, supervisors and other health professionals, in the clinical setting

Non-verbal

Inherent requirement statements	
1	Effective non-verbal communication is fundamental to Clinical Audiology and needs to be respectful, clear, attentive, empathetic, honest and non-judgemental.

Inherent requirement statements	
2	<p>Student demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The capacity to recognise, interpret and respond appropriately to behavioural cues » Consistent and appropriate awareness of own behaviours » Sensitivity to individual differences
Justification of inherent requirement:	
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The ability to observe and understand non-verbal cues assists with building a rapport with people and gaining their trust and respect in academic and professional relationships » Displaying consistent and appropriate facial expressions, eye contact, being mindful of space, time boundaries and body movements and gestures promotes trust in academic and professional relationships » Being sensitive to individual differences displays respect and empathy to others and develops trusting relationships
4	Adjustments must maintain the capacity to recognise, respond to or initiate effective non-verbal communication or its equivalent in a timely and appropriate manner.
Exemplars:	
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Recognising and responding appropriately in classroom situations » Recognising and responding appropriately to cues in the clinical environment
Written	
Inherent requirement statements	
1	Effective written communication is a fundamental Clinical Audiology responsibility with professional and legal ramifications.
2	Student demonstrates capacity to construct coherent written communication appropriate to the circumstances.
Justification of inherent requirement:	
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Construction of written text based assessment tasks to reflect the required academic standards are necessary to convey knowledge and understanding of relevant subject matter for professional practice » Accurate written communication, including record keeping and client notes, is vital to provide consistent and safe client care

Inherent requirement statements	
4	Adjustments must meet necessary standards of clarity, accuracy, accessibility, transferability and portability to ensure effective recording and transmission of information in both academic and clinical settings.
Exemplars:	
5	» Constructing an essay to academic standards » Constructing clinical documents in a timely manner that meets professional standards

Cognition

This course requires knowledge of theory and the skills of cognition, literacy and numeracy.

Knowledge and Cognitive Skills

Level	Inherent Requirement Statements
1	Consistent and effective knowledge and cognitive skills must be demonstrated to provide safe, effective and timely clinical audiological management.
2	Student demonstrates: » Capacity to locate appropriate and relevant information » Ability to process information relevant to practice » Ability to integrate and implement knowledge into practice in a timely manner
3	Justification of Inherent Requirement: » Safe and effective delivery of clinical audiological management is based on comprehensive knowledge that must be sourced, understood and applied appropriately.
4	Adjustments must ensure that a clear demonstration of knowledge and cognitive skills is not compromised or impeded.
5	Exemplars: » Conceptualising and using appropriate knowledge in response to academic assessment items » Appropriately applying knowledge of theory, research evidence, policies and procedures in the clinical setting

Literacy (Language)

Level	Inherent Requirement Statements
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1	Competent literacy skills are essential to provide safe and effective delivery of care.
2	<p>Student demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The ability to accurately acquire information and convey appropriate, effective messages » Ability to read and comprehend a range of literature and information » The capacity to understand and implement academic conventions to construct written text in a scholarly manner
3	<p>Justification of Inherent Requirement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The ability to acquire information and to accurately convey messages is fundamental to ensure safe and effective assessment, treatment and delivery of care » The ability to read, decode, interpret and comprehend multiple sources of information is fundamental for safe and effective delivery of care
4	Adjustments to address literacy issues must demonstrate a capacity to effectively acquire, comprehend, apply and communicate accurate information.
5	<p>Exemplars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Conveying spoken and written messages accurately and effectively in a clinical setting » Paraphrasing, summarising and referencing in accordance with appropriate academic conventions in written assignments » Producing accurate, concise and clear clinical audiological documentation which meets legal requirements
Numeracy	
Level	Inherent Requirement Statements
1	Competent and accurate numeracy skills are essential for safe and effective Audiology therapy management.
2	Student interprets and correctly applies data, measurements and numerical criteria.
3	<p>Justification of Inherent Requirement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Competent application of numeracy skills is essential in Audiology to facilitate the safe and effective delivery of clinical audiological care
4	Adjustments must demonstrate a capacity to interpret and apply concepts and processes appropriately in a timely, accurate and effective manner.

5 Exemplars:

- » Recording accurate measurements in client notes
 - » Prescribing equipment and/or devices that correctly meets client requirements
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Sensory Abilities

This course requires adequate visual, auditory and tactile abilities.

Visual

Level	Inherent Requirement Statements
1	Adequate visual acuity is required to provide safe and effective clinical audiological management.
2	Student demonstrates sufficient visual acuity to perform a range of skills.
3	Justification of Inherent Requirement: <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Sufficient visual acuity to demonstrate the required range of skills, tasks and assessments to maintain consistent, accurate and safe care to self and others» Visual observations, examinations and assessment are fundamental to safe and effective clinical audiological practice
4	Adjustments must address the need to perform the full range of tasks involved in clinical practice. Any strategies to address the effects of the Vision Impairment must be effective, consistent and not compromise treatment or safety.
5	Exemplars: <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Ability to perform functional activities during clinical assessment and treatment» Safely operating diagnostic and management equipment e.g. conducting otoscopy and impression taking

Auditory

Level	Inherent Requirement Statements
1	Adequate auditory ability is required to provide safe and effective clinical audiological management.
2	Student demonstrates sufficient aural function to undertake the required range of skills.

3	Justification of Inherent Requirement: » Sufficient auditory ability is necessary to monitor, assess and manage individual health needs consistently and accurately » Auditory assessments and observations are fundamental to safe and effective clinical audiological practice
4	Adjustments must address the need to perform the range of tasks involved in clinical practice. Any strategies to address the effects of the Hearing Impairment must be effective, consistent and not compromise treatment of safety.
5	Exemplars: » Ability to carry out and interpret a complete audiological assessment and rehabilitation strategy » Engaging appropriately to a client's responses during an assessment and being able to appropriately engage and respond to rehabilitation plans » Safely operating diagnostic and management equipment e.g. equipment calibration, checking hearing devices, managing auditory responses from the client in the case of speech testing.

Tactile

Level	Inherent Requirement Statements
1	Sufficient tactile ability is required to perform competent and safe clinical audiology management.
2	Student demonstrates sufficient tactile function to undertake a range of skills and assessments.
3	Justification of Inherent Requirement: » Sufficient tactile ability is necessary for safe and effective clinical audiological practice
4	Adjustments must have the capacity to make effective assessments of physical characteristics and abnormalities within safe time frames.
5	Exemplars: » Safely operating diagnostic and management equipment e.g. otoscope, equipment calibration, checking devices, evoked potential testing.

Strength and Mobility

This course requires strength and mobility involving fine motor skills.

Fine Motor

Level	Inherent Requirement Statements
1	Clinical Audiology is a profession that requires manual dexterity and fine motor skills.
2	Student demonstrated ability to use fine motor skills to provide safe effective care.
3	Justification of Inherent Requirement: » Sufficient fine motor skills are necessary to coordinate and prioritise care. Tasks that involve fine motor skills include being able to grasp, press, push, turn, squeeze and manipulate various objects and individuals. Students must be able to demonstrate and perform these tasks consistently and safely to reduce the risk of harm to self and others
4	Adjustments must facilitate functional effectiveness, safety to self and others and a capacity to provide appropriate care.
5	Exemplars: » Performing assessment techniques, e.g. otoscopy, handling transducers , handling software. » Performing rehabilitation techniques, e.g. adjusting hearing devices, taking ear impressions, safe and effective wax removal

Sustainable Performance

Level	Inherent Requirement Statements
1	Clinical Audiological practice requires both physical and mental performance at a consistent and sustained level to meet individual needs over time.
2	Student demonstrates: » Consistent and sustained level of physical energy to complete a specific task in a timely manner and over time » The ability to perform repetitive activities with a level of concentration that ensures a capacity to focus on the activity until it is completed appropriately » The capacity to maintain consistency and quality of performance throughout the designated period of duty

3 Justification of Inherent Requirement:

» Sufficient physical and mental endurance is an essential requirement needed to perform multiple tasks in an assigned period to provide safe and effective care

4 Adjustments must ensure that performance is consistent and sustained over a given period.

5 Exemplars:

» Participating in tutorials and lectures throughout the day
» Providing consistent clinical audiological management over a negotiated time frame while on clinical placement

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