



# OREGON HEALTH LICENSING AGENCY

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## Advisory Council on Hearing Aids

### Hearing Aid Sales / Specialists

Hearing aid specialists are one of three different hearing health practitioners who may sell, lease or rent hearing aids in conjunction with the evaluation or measurement of human hearing. Hearing aid specialists must be authorized by the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA). Practitioners recommend, select or adapt hearing aids and may alter, adjust or reconstruct hearing aids specifications for functionality, such as taking ear impressions for proper fit.

#### Qualifications

Any of the following may sell hearing aids. OHLA licenses, regulates and monitors purchase contracts of hearing aid specialists only. For information on audiologists and ear, nose and throat (ENT) specialists, contact the regulatory entities listed below.



**Hearing aid specialists**, as their name implies, specialize in the fitting and sale of hearing aids. Specialist trainees must complete 520 hours of practical training under the direct supervision of an approved supervisor who must be licensed as a hearing aid specialist. Before becoming licensed, trainees must also complete theory education, the International Hearing Society's (HIS) Distance Learning Program for Professionals in Hearing Health Sciences, under direct supervision.

**Audiologists** are licensed to practice by the [Oregon Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology Board](#). Audiologists are required to obtain at least six years of post-secondary education focusing on speech pathology and audiology.

**Physicians**, such as *otolaryngologists* or ear, nose and throat (ENT) specialists, are licensed to practice by the [Oregon Medical Board](#). They must obtain certification through the American Board of Otolaryngology.

#### Continuing Education

All hearing aid specialists submitting application for renewal must have completed 24 contact hours of approved continuing education during the proceeding two years.

#### Authorizing Laws & Rules

This program exists under the regulatory oversight of the **Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA)**. **Advisory Council on Hearing Aids** profession-specific statutes (ORS 694.015-694.185 and 694.991) and rules (OAR 331, Divisions 601-650) link to OHLA's overarching statutes (ORS 676.600-992) and rules (OAR 331, Divisions 1-30) for all OHLA-regulated professions.

For more information, visit <http://www.oregon.gov/OHLA/HAS>.