

ATSU AuD Professional Pulse

Welcome to the inaugural edition of A.T. Still University's Post-Professional Doctor of Audiology Program newsletter

We are thrilled to launch this platform to connect, inspire, and engage our dynamic global community of audiologists, including practitioners, educators, students, and alumni. This biannual publication will showcase program updates, spotlight faculty and student achievements, and explore innovations shaping the future of audiology. Together, we aim to celebrate our collective growth while fostering collaboration and excellence in advancing hearing healthcare. Thank you for joining us on this exciting journey - let's make this a valuable resource for all!



Tabitha Parent-Buck, AuD

Professor and
Chair of Audiology

Chat with the Chair

Happy 2025! This year marks an important milestone for the Doctor of Audiology program at A.T. Still University-Arizona School of Health Sciences (ATSU-ASHS). It is the audiology program's 25th anniversary and ATSU-ASHS' 30th anniversary. We have a great deal to celebrate within the School and the profession. Like many of you, I chose audiology (or maybe it chose me) because of my passion for both the science and the art of what we do to care for and empower those with auditory and vestibular impairments, and it has been a great journey. The changes in audiology education, technology, and evidence-based research over the past 25 years have elevated our profession to the doctoral level and expanded many areas of service to our patients.

I am excited to work with students, faculty, and organizations like the Academy of Doctors of Audiology (ADA), as the ADA works to implement its Audiology 2050 initiative to shape the future of the profession for the next quarter century. As we conclude a successful 2024 and start a new year, I would like to thank all audiology faculty and students across the globe, and those just starting their career track here in Arizona, for their hard work and dedication to advancing audiology! We are moving in the right direction for audiology to be the point of entry for hearing and balance care, so let's stay engaged and be a part of that future.

Did you know: Dr. Parent-Buck jumped out of a perfectly good airplane ... twice? She has always enjoyed camping, outdoor activities, and the Arizona weather, even when it is 100 degrees. When the opportunities arose to go skydiving, and with the encouragement of her brave daughter, she made two exhilarating tandem jumps with only minimal issues with her vestibular system while floating through the sunny blue sky.



Andrea Ruotolo, AuD

Associate Professor
and Program Director

Director's dialogue

We're thrilled to celebrate a major milestone: The enrollment of our 14th student cohort!

Our program proudly represents a truly global community, with students hailing from 20 countries: the U.S., Canada, Australia, U.K., Hong Kong, Dubai, Iran, India, Colombia, South Africa, New Zealand, Ireland, Ghana, Botswana, Malta, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Lebanon, and Singapore. With each new cohort, our reach continues to grow, bringing together diverse perspectives from across the globe!

Our fully online program offers flexible two-year and three-year pathways to earning the AuD degree. With a customized curriculum featuring 26 expertly designed courses taught by a team of exceptional global faculty and contributors, we ensure our students receive the best education tailored to the profession's evolving needs.

As program director, my favorite duties include recruiting students from around the world, collaborating with international organizations, and supporting our incredible global faculty. I'm passionate about delivering cutting-edge content via state-of-the-art technology while addressing the most pressing issues in audiology. Staying ahead of industry trends and envisioning the future of audiology isn't just part of my job – it's my obsession.

Thank you for being part of this incredible journey. Let's continue shaping the future of audiology together!

Did you know: Dr. Ruotolo's academic journey took off as the clinic director at Portland State University, where she was inspired by incredible mentors and collaborated with exceptional students. Her time there not only shaped her career, but also fueled her love for cycling as she mastered the challenging hilly landscapes of Oregon.



Melanie Gibson, MA

Instructional Designer
and Program Manager

Melanie's message

Stay informed, stay inspired

Harmonize highlights: Your Canvas discussions just got better!

We're thrilled to introduce Harmonize, a dynamic new tool implemented in our Canvas courses! Harmonize is designed to enhance your learning experience with a suite of engaging user-friendly features. Here's what you can look forward to:

- **AI rubric feedback** to help you improve students' posts.
- **Screen recording** for easy content sharing.
- **Audio and video recording** to add a personal touch.
- **Closed captioning** to make discussions more accessible.
- **Polls** to gather opinions and spark conversation.
- **Media embedding** from the web to enrich student's posts.
- **Tagging with "@ mentions"** to easily connect with peers.
- **Post and comment reactions** for quick feedback.
- **Flagging posts as questions** for instructor attention.
- **Flagging posts for follow-up** to keep the conversation going.

We believe Harmonize will make your communications with others more interactive and productive. Get ready to explore these new features and enhance your learning experience!

Did you know: Melanie Gibson pursued and completed her master's degree in curriculum design during the program's launch, ensuring top-notch support for our diverse global student population.

Welcome Drs. Friesen and Ferguson!

Matt Friesen, AuD

Course Designer and Facilitator

AUDP 8200 Amplification: Assessment, Fitting, and Verification

Matt Friesen, AuD, is an audiologist working in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. Over the past 10 years, he has managed four Costco Hearing Aid Center locations across southwestern Ontario. Dr. Friesen has also been involved with recruiting, hiring, developing clinical protocols, and developing and constructing new clinics. He has an extensive background in adult amplification, assessment, and aural rehabilitation. Dr. Friesen obtained his doctor of audiology degree from ATSU-ASHS.

When asked his thoughts on teaching this course, Dr. Friesen stated, "Teaching AUDP 8200 has possibly been more rewarding for myself than it has been for the students. The ideas and conversations occurring on the discussion boards have given me so much to bring back into my own practice. I have been impressed by the quality of discussions sparked by the students in the course, with viewpoints coming from a variety of different backgrounds."



Kaelyn Ferguson, AuD

Course Designer and Facilitator

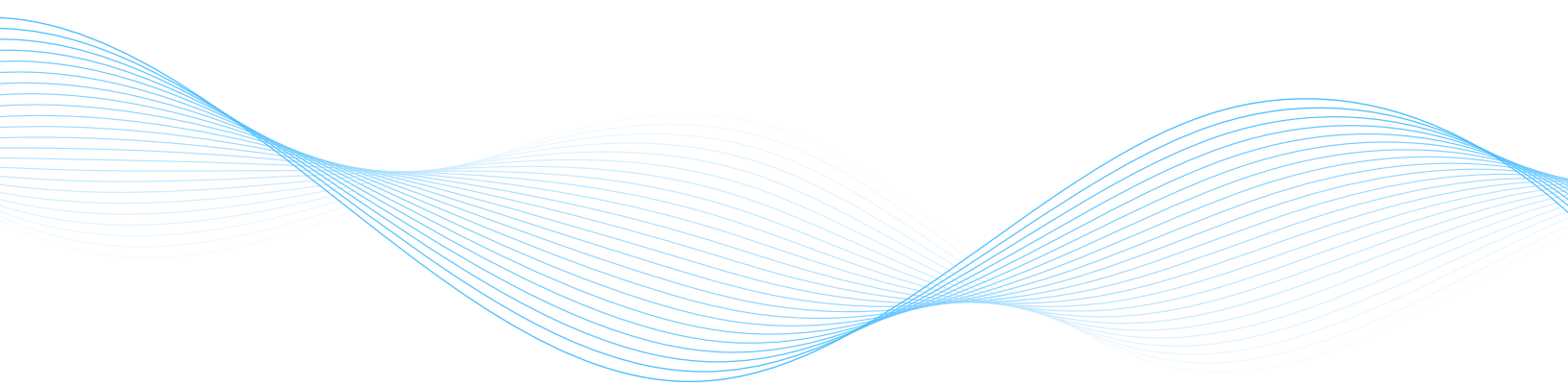
AUDP 8480 Branding and Audiology Practice

Kaelyn Ferguson, AuD, joined ATSU as an adjunct assistant professor in 2023. She owns a private practice, Warman Hearing Clinic, in Saskatchewan, Canada, where she has practiced as an audiologist for eight years. Before opening her private practice in 2023, Dr. Ferguson's professional experience was primarily in private practice and locally owned and larger corporate chains. Dr. Ferguson obtained her doctor of audiology degree from ATSU-ASHS.

When asked her thoughts on teaching this course, Dr. Ferguson stated, "I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching in the Post-Professional Doctor of Audiology Program. It's an exciting time in the field of audiology. I have enjoyed sharing my experiences and learning from students as well!"



Please view all Post-Professional Doctor of Audiology Program global faculty biographies and courses taught at atsu.edu/audp



Faculty highlights

Achievements and innovations

Publications

Dany Pineault, AuD

Course Designer and Facilitator

AUDP 8431 Tinnitus and Hyperacusis: Theories, Evaluation, and Treatment

AUDP 8470 Age-Related Hearing Loss, Cognitive Decline, and Dementia: Theories, Evaluation, and Treatment

Pineault, D. (2024). The Bidirectional Association between Tinnitus & Mental Well-being: Clinical Implications for Audiologist. *Canadian Audiologist, 11(2)*.

Pineault, D. (2024). From tinnitus to musical hallucinations: Navigating complex auditory symptoms. *Canadian Audiologist, 11(6)*.

Activities

Bettina Turnbull, AuD

Course Designer and Facilitator

AUDP 8460 Telehealth in Audiology

In April 2024, Bettina Turnbull, AuD, joined colleagues from the Hear the World Foundation on a visit to a project in Bhutan. They visited a school to observe how hearing health checks were conducted on school children. Later, they spent time at a hospital in the city of Thimphu, where they worked with the country's six audiologists to train them on fitting and verifying digital hearing aids on pediatric patients.

Also in 2024, Dr. Turnbull collaborated with Chinese research and development, information technology, and audiology teams to develop an application for the Mandarin QuickSIN test, which has now been rolled out for clinical use.

Krista Jung, AuD

Course Designer and Facilitator

AUDP 7200 Pathologies of the Auditory and Vestibular System

Krista Jung, AuD, is an expert reviewer for *U.S. News & World Report*, having reviewed approximately 14 articles since September 2024.

Amanda Zappler, AuD

Course Designer and Facilitator

AUDP 8700 Hearing Loss and Healthy Aging

Amanda Zappler, AuD, has been working with two hearing aid manufacturers to conduct blind trials with newly developed artificial intelligence (AI) technology, through community-based focus groups aimed at exploring AI technology in hearing aids.

Mary Ormson, AuD

Course Designer and Facilitator

AUDP 7500 Genetics and Hearing Loss

AUDP 8400 Global Healthcare and Audiology

Andrea Ruotolo, AuD

Program Director

Course Designer and Facilitator
AUDP 7000 Ethics, Leadership, and Professionalism

In February 2025, Mary Ormson, AuD, and Andrea Ruotolo, AuD, traveled to Roatan, Honduras, to screen children from newborns to age 17 in support of Roatan Mission Fellowship. For more information, visit roatanmission.com

Presentations

Bettie Borton, AuD

Course Designer and Facilitator

AUDP 8810 Personnel Management

Bettie Borton, AuD, presented "The Road to Private Practice to Independent Audiologists Australia Online Business Bootcamp" in August 2024.

Natalie Buttress, AuD

Course Designer and Facilitator

AUDP 8220 Counseling, Aural Rehabilitation, and Assistive Devices

Natalie Buttress, AuD, presented to the Oregon Academy of Audiology on "Ethical Principles and Culturally Competent Clinical Practice" on Jan. 25, 2025. This is Dr. Buttress' second presentation on this topic to this group.

Andrea Ruotolo, AuD

Program Director

Course Designer and Facilitator
AUDP 7000 Ethics, Leadership, and Professionalism

In July 2024, Andrea Ruotolo, AuD, designed an engaging program focusing on global audiology, the evolving needs of the profession, and the unique benefits of earning a doctor of audiology, for the Pacific Audiology Group. The Pacific Audiology Group offers an incredible platform to deepen your expertise and earn CEU credits. For more information, visit pacificaudiologygroup.com

Student and alumni highlights

Achievements and innovations

Publications

Adrienne Blechman, AuD

Post-Professional Doctor of Audiology Program graduate
Class of 2024 (July)

Cassandra Kerr, AuD

Post-Professional Doctor of Audiology Program graduate
Class of 2025 (January)

Blechman, A., & Kerr, C. (2024). Collaborative audiology care: A case study of mutual benefit and improved outcomes. *Audiology Now*, 96.

Sarah McCullough

Post-Professional Doctor of Audiology Program student
Class of 2025 (July)

McCullough, S. (2024). **How to hear better: Communication strategies for people with hearing loss**

Mohamed Garrada

Post-Professional Doctor of Audiology Program student
Class of 2026 (January)

Garrada, M., Alnoury, M.K., Alnoury, O.K., Alqutub, A., Alsulami, O.A., Abuzinadah, H.R., & Alnoury, K.I. (2024, November 5). Auditory and speech outcomes following transcutaneous bone conduction hearing implantation. *Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery*. King Abdulaziz University Faculty of Medicine, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Garrada, M., Zimmo, Z.F., Alsulami, M., & Alkhatib, T. (2022). A comparative study between audiological and speech outcomes of non-implantable wearing options for BAH in the pediatric population. **International Journal of Otorhinolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery**, 8(8), 628-632.

Presentations

Sylvia Ciechanowski, AuD

Post-Professional Doctor of Audiology Program graduate
Class of 2025 (January)

Check Your Hearing, Change Your Life! Poster presentation at the Canadian Academy of Audiology Conference, Kelowna Canada, October 2024

World Alzheimer's Month Community of Innovation Podcast presentation. Season 5, Episode 64

Lushinka Gopichand

Post-Professional Doctor of Audiology Program graduate
Class of 2026 (July)

"Cochlear Implants - When to refer, who to refer, and how to refer" webinar was live on March 20, 2024, and hosted by Specsavers on behalf of the British Academy of Audiology Cochlear Implant Champions and British Cochlear Implant Group, U.K.

Activities

Signe Steers, AuD

Post-Professional Doctor of Audiology Program graduate
Class of 2024 (July)

Opening a private practice specializing in central (auditory) processing disorders: **Fitted out for success; A tale of two audiology fit-outs**



Graduation Reception June 2024, Curtis Whicker, AuD and Tabitha Parent-Buck, AuD

Transforming learning and care: The role of artificial intelligence in audiology education and clinical practice

Ethical application of artificial intelligence (AI) in education and clinical practice is certainly a hot topic! This was highlighted at the World Congress of Audiology in Paris this past September, where global experts shared insights on how AI is reshaping the profession. From enhancing educational tools to improving clinical diagnostics and decision-making, the possibilities are vast – but so are the ethical challenges. Discussions emphasized the importance of balancing innovation with responsibility, ensuring AI augments rather than replaces human expertise, and maintaining patient-centered care. As AI continues to evolve, it will be critical for audiologists to lead the way in adopting these technologies ethically and effectively.

Post-Professional Doctor of Audiology Program students are equipped with the tools to ethically implement AI in their coursework and professional practice. In their first course, students engage with a comprehensive presentation covering the development of AI, effective use of AI platforms as academic tools, strategies for upholding academic integrity, support for writing and brainstorming, and techniques for critically evaluating AI-generated content.

We are excited to announce the upcoming course offering: AUDP 8490 Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Audiology Practice. This innovative four-week course, set to debut in December 2025, will be designed and taught by esteemed adjunct faculty member Bettina Turnbull, AuD. View the full course description and Dr. Turnbull's biography on our website at atsu.edu/audp

This course is open to current AuD students and nondegree seeking students. Alumni and members of select global organizations may be eligible for a 20% tuition discount. Don't miss this opportunity to stay at the forefront of AI innovation in audiology!

ConGRADulations, class of 2025

January and June

We are pleased to announce the January 2025 cohort of the Post-Professional Doctor of Audiology Program graduates officially completed their degrees on Jan. 6. Please join us in congratulating our 19 new doctors of audiology – a remarkable milestone!

Looking ahead, our June 2025 graduates are on track to complete their degrees on June 23, 2025. We are excited to celebrate the upcoming 12 new doctors of audiology and their incredible achievements.



Commencement ceremony details

ATSU-ASHS online programs will host its commencement ceremony on Friday, June 6, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the Mesa Arts Center. For more information, visit atsu.edu/commencement



World Congress of Audiology

Paris, France | September 2024

Our deepest gratitude goes out to the incredible team who organized this outstanding conference! Over four unforgettable days, attendees were treated to presentations from world-class speakers addressing some of the most pressing and innovative topics in our field.

We also want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who stopped by our booth. It was a joy to connect with current students, alumni, and faculty, share updates, and exchange ideas inspiring the future of audiology.

Upcoming conferences may be found on our website at: atsu.edu/audp



Post-Professional Doctor of Audiology Program

- Fully online
- Consider non-degree course options of interest
- Customized curriculum
- Obtain your AuD degree while continuing full-time practice

Future newsletters

We are excited to hear from you! As we continue to develop the Post-Professional Doctor of Audiology Program's newsletter, we want it to reflect the interests and needs of our audiology community. We welcome your ideas for future content – whether it's emerging trends, ethical dilemmas, clinical advancements, career development tips, or anything else you'd like to see featured. Please share your suggestions with Andrea Ruotolo, AuD, at aruotolo@atsu.edu and join us in shaping the future of this newsletter!

Consider becoming a preceptor

If you're passionate about sharing your expertise and shaping the future of audiology, we'd love to hear from you! Reach out to our director of clinical education and associate professor, Patricia Dabrowski, AuD, at pdabrowski@atsu.edu

Considering pursuing your AuD degree

Take the next step in your professional journey by enrolling in our comprehensive AuD degree program. Discover how earning your doctor of audiology may open new doors to opportunities and professional growth, and begin your application at atsu.edu/audp

Consider non-degree seeking course options

Whether you're looking to deepen your expertise, explore new areas of practice, or earn CEUs, our flexible and engaging courses are the perfect way to achieve your goals – on your schedule! Alumni and members of various global professional organizations may be eligible for a 20% tuition discount. Please view nondegree seeking course options, and start your application at atsu.edu/audp-nds