

Clinical Education Forum at AudiologyNOW!®

Since the AuD has been adopted nationally, it has become clear that many systemic problems with the externship model exist and urgently need to be addressed. Students, faculty, and clinicians all reported large gaps between classroom and clinical training in the stakeholder survey conducted by ACAE in 2014. The externship is too often poorly supervised—lacking in quality and breadth of experiences. A survey of 64 AuD programs, undertaken by the Academy’s Education Committee in 2009, revealed deficits in academic training to prepare students for clinical experiences. Faculty identified areas in which expertise is lacking for many areas of practice including cochlear implants, vestibular assessments and rehabilitation, business, tinnitus and hearing conservation, medical audiology, pharmacology, and others. Many issues related to the fourth-year externships were identified, yet the majority of faculty advised retaining the concept prior to graduation.

The emphasis on quality clinical education must be equal to its counterpart—didactic education—and consistent in programs across the United States. At the same time, massive changes are taking place in education models, technology, student tuition, and health-care models that audiology graduates must be prepared to embrace. Attempting to “catch-up” and fix the education model of the past will not work for these fundamental shifts in health-care delivery and university education.

ACAE stated from the start, in 2003, that the didactic and clinical aspects of audiology education must be totally integrated, seamless, and consistent throughout programs. The clinical aspect of education is at least 25 percent of the curriculum. It is the responsibility of the entire education community to assure that this portion of the curriculum is well organized, designed, and implemented by the university programs partnering with clinical sites. Integrated learning should be a commitment made to students at the beginning of their educational career as well as to the profession, keeping the end-goal in mind that competent graduates would be ready to begin professional practice across the scope of audiology.

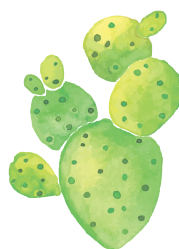
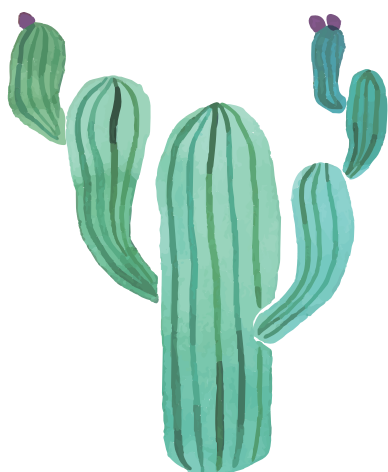
For improvements to occur, current models should be examined with regard to future needs. The Clinical Forum is designed to provide an opportunity for bringing a wide range of educators, including faculty, administrators, preceptors, and clinical instructors together in one setting. The forum will include presentations from leaders involved in audiology education and the audience will be invited to actively participate in panel discussions. A critical outcome will be to determine clear, organized steps on how to create pathways for future education and training needs.

A forum like this has not been held since 2009, when the Academy held the Gold Summit Conference on Education. This forthcoming and open discussion among educators will serve as a motivation for a future Gold Summit meeting.

The Clinical Forum takes place at AudiologyNOW! on Saturday, April 16, 8:30 am–1:00 pm, at the Sheraton Hotel, Phoenix, Arizona.

To register, visit the ACAE Web site at www.acaeaccred.org. Please do not delay in registering because seating is limited!

We look forward to seeing you in Phoenix! 🌵



All Educators and Preceptors of Audiology Students



**Register today for the Clinical Education Forum
at AudiologyNOW! 2016.**

**Securing the Future
of Innovative Clinical
Education in Audiology**

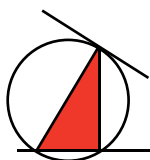
8:30 am–1:00 pm

Saturday, April 16, 2016

Sheraton Grand Hotel Phoenix

The Clinical Education Forum is an opportunity to discuss the past, present, and future of clinical education. Everyone involved in classroom or clinical instruction, of doctor of audiology students, is encouraged to participate. During this forum, we will develop plans for an improved model for clinical education, examine current models and best practices, and determine a clear strategy for the future education and training needs of audiology students.

Register at **www.acaeaccred.org**.



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