

ASACR 7

Office of the President
February 21, 2025

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACADEMIC DEGREE: COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a doctoral degree in Audiology, in the College of Health Sciences.

Background: The proposed doctoral degree in Audiology (Au.D.) will be a three-year advanced practice doctoral degree providing the necessary academic and clinical experiences for students to enter audiologic practice upon graduation. The program will be administered by the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders of the College of Health Sciences. Clinical collaborative partners include the Department of Otolaryngology in the College of Medicine and UK HealthCare.

This program is being proposed to address a shortage of audiologists, both in Kentucky and across the country. A job market analysis specifically for this proposed degree program indicated that demand for audiologists is expected to grow at twice the rate of all occupations over the next 10 years in the U.S. in general. In Kentucky, a nearly 40% increase is needed to reach the national average.

The format of the degree, including the externship, is consistent with the structure of existing Au.D. degree programs in the country, and will meet audiology state licensure and national certification requirements, as well as programmatic accreditation standards. The anticipated start date for publicizing and admitting students will be Fall of 2025 with the first cohort beginning in the Fall of 2026.

The proposed doctoral degree has been recommended to the Provost by the College of Health Sciences faculty, given their expertise within their respective disciplines. The Provost of the University supports the program faculty's recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____