

Mackenzie Dewar, Au.D., M.A.
Doctor of Audiology
Registered Audiologist

ABOUT THE SESSION:

Listen Close: A Comprehensive Overview of Occupational Hearing Loss and Implementing Effective Hearing Conservation Programs

The audiology session will cover a broad range of topics related to hearing health.

The session is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the mechanics of hearing and physical changes associated with hearing loss due to noise exposure. The session will walk through the steps of an occupational hearing screening including: case history, otoscopy, audiological testing procedures, counseling the employee based on the findings and appropriate recommendations. We will discuss how to interpret the results to identify abnormal audiograms, significant shifts and other reasons for referral in a hearing conservation program. We will also discuss the impact of noise induced hearing loss on communication, cognition and its effects in the workplace. Finally, the session will cover hearing critical jobs where hearing is essential and the use of hearing aids in the workplace. Overall, the session aims to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the various aspects of occupational noise exposure and hearing loss in the workplace.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Understand the mechanics and biology of hearing and the physical changes that occur with noise induced hearing loss
2. Identify the different types of hearing loss and understand the cause and effects
3. Understand the procedures for industrial hearing testing and techniques
4. Identify normal, abnormal audiograms including minimal shifts, significant shifts and other red flags
5. Understand the impact of hearing loss on work performance, social life, mental health and earning potential and the importance of prevention and regular hearing screenings