

# Audiologist vs Hearing Instrument Specialist

	Audiologists	Dispensers
Education	Doctorate	No degree required
Medical Provider	Yes	No - licensed as trade
Fits Hearing Aids	Yes	Yes
Trained in hearing science	Yes	Only as it pertains to dispensing hearing aids.
Able to fit children and teens	Yes	Not recommended by the FDA.
Able to diagnose hearing loss	Yes	No
Qualified to Assess Cochlear Implant Candidacy	Yes	No
Able to Evaluate and Treat Auditory Processing Function	Yes	No
Able to Evaluate and Treat Balance Disorders	Yes	No
Trained to Evaluate Peer Reviewed Research	Yes	No
Able to Conduct Clinical Research on Hearing Aids	Yes	No
Able to Interpret Interoperative Neurophysiologic Systems	Yes	No
Able to Serve as a Witness in Court	Yes	No