

Your Roadmap to Success

A Guide to Entering the Hearing Healthcare Profession

There are two pathways into the profession: on-the-job training along with the IHS *Distance Learning for Professionals in Hearing Health Sciences* course, or an academic degree in hearing instrument fitting and dispensing, offered at a few colleges in the US and Canada.

Students who are using the IHS course should have by now received (or will receive) several email communications from IHS about the course and your journey to become a hearing aid specialist.

There are many preparatory tools and options available. To guide you in your journey, we've developed the **Success Checklist** (below). Each step is critical to your attainment of the core knowledge and skills necessary to become licensed and fully equipped to practice as a hearing aid specialist.

Success Checklist

Check off the steps as you complete them.

- YOU MUST START HERE** → Contact your [state/provincial licensing board](#) for training and license requirements in your jurisdiction. Each state/province has different rules and regulations.

- Find a mentor in your area. Use [the IHS directory](#) as a starting point.

- Purchase [Distance Learning for Professionals in Hearing Health Sciences](#) and enroll in the course. When purchasing with the [Trainer Manual](#), you will receive a discount!
 - The [Trainer Manual](#) pulls all your book learning and practical skills together. It is essential to helping you pass your licensing exam and preparing you for independent practice.
 - Here's [a letter](#) to help you ask your supervisor to invest in and use the [Trainer Manual](#) with you.

- When you purchase the course, you will also receive a free IHS membership for one year. [View your membership benefits here](#) and begin taking advantage of all that IHS has to offer!

- View key [IHS webinars](#) for free:
 - [FDA Red Flags](#)
 - [Infection Control](#)
 - [Fitting Methods](#)
 - [Real Ear Measures](#)
 - [Tympanometry](#)
 - [How to Avoid the Top Ethics Pitfalls](#)

These webinars and more are also found in the online learning system of the course.

- Take all your [lesson tests and the final exam](#) for the course.
- Insist your sponsor test you** on each practical skill presented in the [Trainer Manual](#) and provide you feedback and assessment. Complete a self-assessment on each skill and review it with them. This provides an opportunity for you to reflect on your professional development and gives you an active role in the assessment process.
- Check with your [state/provincial board](#) about your eligibility to take the IHS International Licensing Exam*. When IHS is informed by your state/provincial board that you are eligible, you will receive the IHS Study Guide for the exam and instructions for signing up (applies to the [44 states and 5 Canadian provinces](#) using the IHS International Licensing Exam).
- Keep working toward proficiency in each practical skill and continue to practice until you reach mastery level. Competency assessments, found in the [Trainer Manual](#), are the key to your success.**
- Purchase suggested reading materials noted in the IHS Study Guide. Be sure you have studied all material mentioned in the IHS Study Guide for the International Licensing Examination.
- Use [ILE Test Prep](#) to prepare for the IHS International Licensing Examination.
- When you are ready, schedule your exam appointment(s).
- Take your licensing exam(s).
- Study the [IHS Code of Ethics](#) and display it in your office. As an IHS member, it shows patients you take your profession and their care seriously.
- Join your [state or provincial chapter](#) of hearing healthcare professionals.
- Continue reinforcing your skills and engaging in continuing education ([conventions](#), [seminars](#), [webinars](#), and [self-study](#)) to maintain contemporary knowledge and skills. Reference IHS's [Best Practices Guidelines](#) often.

IHS is your partner and we're here to support you. Keep a look out for more tips and guides from IHS on working in the profession. Still have questions? Call us at 734.522.7200 or email education@ihinfo.org.

*"IHS International Licensing Exam" refers to the International Licensing Examination for Hearing Healthcare Professionals.