

HEARING AID LICENSURE EXAMINATION OVERVIEW

As an applicant for licensure as a hearing aid dispenser, we wish to acquaint you with the examination procedure. We hope the following information will be helpful to you and will assist you as you prepare for the test.

While we consider text material to be extremely important in your studies, it should be used in conjunction with hands on testing, fitting, dispensing and general practical work. It has been our finding that persons with exposure to both text and practical experience perform better on the exam.

In regard to training prior to the examination, only persons holding a temporary license [K.S.A 74-5812 (C)] may practice the fitting and dispensing of hearing aids with consumers.

By reading through the following breakdown of test sections, you will have a better understanding of the standard examination. We look forward to seeing you at your scheduled testing.

Only the three practical exams will be administered by the Board.

The practical exams:

- ◆ Audiometric Testing (with examiner)
- ◆ Audiogram Analysis with Speech and Masking (with examiner & written)
- ◆ Earmold Impression Technique (with examiner)
- ◆ Modifications (This is part of the ear impression practical portion. These are questions regarding modifications/adjustments that may arise with hearing instruments.)

The test will take the better part of the day and we will be unable to allow examinees to leave for lunch. You may, however, bring snack food and drinks to the exam room.

During times when you are not being tested, you will be asked to wait quietly at the tables in the large exam room. During waiting time, **if you have completed and returned your written portions to the secretary**, you may review or study, but none of your study materials are to be taken to any of the exam positions. No personal materials may be on the table surface while you still have the written examination.

ANONYMITY

To completely insure objective review in all portions of the examination for fitters and dispensers of hearing aids, each examinee will be given a number and will be known only by that number. While this may tend to cause a feeling of distance since it will limit some of the normal conversation that has helped to relax most examinees, be assured that our intention is for objectivity. We hope you can sit back, take a deep breath and approach each portion of the exam with confidence. Note that your number is listed on your enclosed schedule. **PLEASE REMEMBER THE NUMBER WHEN YOU APPEAR FOR TESTING.**

SCORING

Each portion of the practical exam is scored on a percent correct basis. To pass an individual section, you must obtain a score of at least 75%. If you hold a temporary license and any portion of the exam is failed, only the failed portion needs to be retaken at the next scheduled examination providing your temporary license is renewed and in good standing. A temporary license may **be renewed one time**. The temporary cannot be renewed a second time nor is it valid for more than 16 months regardless of test dates. If you do not have a temporary license, no fitting, dispensing or impression taking is allowed until the hearing aid license is issued. For scores of less than 75%, aptitude will be evaluated based on consumer protection issues - **renewal of the temporary license may have restrictions placed upon it or the Board may opt not to renew.**

PRACTICAL EXAMINATIONS

In each of the three practical examinations, the examiner will request that you proceed with that portion of the test just as if you were working with an actual client. The examiner may ask you to perform certain tasks and will give you clear and specific instructions. The examiners realize that you are nervous during such testing and want to assure each of you that the purpose of our testing is to verify basic knowledge. The examiners will be glad to work with you as you answer the questions. There is time to “stop and think” or to “move on to another question and return later”. **Don’t be afraid to suggest this, if necessary.** To acquaint you with the tests you will be taking, we will list some basic areas that will be covered.

IMPRESSION TAKING – HEARING AID TROUBLESHOOTING & MODIFICATION

With your own materials you will be asked to make an actual impression. You will also be asked to bring someone, of which you will take that impression. The examiner will score you on all aspects involved in obtaining an earmold impression. You will also be given written modification questions and will be asked to evaluate the issues with hearing instruments and adjustments/modifications that need to be made. These questions will cover different modifications of earmolds, trouble shooting, and tubing mechanics of earmolds.

USE OF THE AUDIOMETER

Each examinee will be asked to perform an actual hearing test on one of the examiners who will respond in a preset manner to specific thresholds--not necessarily his/her actual thresholds. For this reason, the examiner will be allowed to see **your audiometer** during testing but you will not be scored lower for this. All aspects of testing will be examined and scored in one-point increments to specific objective points of importance.

UNDERSTANDING THE AUDIOGRAM

Each examinee will be asked to discuss the results found in audiometric evaluations and will be graded in one point increments in response to specific, objective items. Discussion of completeness and accuracy regarding the test battery including speech testing and masking will be covered. Standard examples will be given and you will then be asked to discuss each individual case.

WRITTEN TEST

The Written Exam:

The Kansas Board of Examiners in the Fitting and Dispensing of Hearing Instruments adopted the International Licensing Examination for Hearing Health Care Professionals (ILE) as the written examination in 2017. The exam is administered by the International Hearing Society (IHS). Once the Board has received an application and it is approved for the examinations, the applicant information is sent to IHS. IHS will then contact the applicant via email. The email will explain the process of the examination and locations where the exam is offered near the applicant. Currently the ILE is \$225.00. That money is all paid to IHS. It is strongly recommended that applicants PASS the ILE before sitting for the practical examinations. Currently, there is no limit for the number of times an applicant can take the ILE.

List of study materials includes:

IHS study guide

Exercises in Audiometry – Martin

Handbook of Clinical Audiology – Katz

Study Guide to Hearing and Hearing Aids – Staab

OVERVIEW

The Board urges all examinees to prepare for the exam thoroughly and completely. The exam is extremely fair in subject matter but should not be considered an easy test. The test requires knowledge of all aspects of basic fitting and dispensing and does not assume that the office performs any part of your fitting or dispensing procedure. You are the person being licensed and you must be able to perform all necessary parts of the testing, fitting, and dispensing procedure.

We wish you well in your attempt to become a licensed hearing aid dispenser. The Kansas Board of Hearing Aid Examiners is striving for a strong, professional and knowledgeable group of licensees. We hope that you attain a high level of knowledge and thereby serve the consumers of Kansas well and are an asset to the profession.