

## 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 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 Distance Learning Course should have by now received several email communications from the IHS Professional Development team about the course and your journey to become a hearing aid specialist.

There are many preparatory tools and options available. Therefore, we've put together a 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

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Check off the steps as you complete them.

- YOU MUST START HERE** → Contact your [state/provincial licensing board](#) for requirements in your area. Each state/ province has different rules and regulations.
- Find a mentor in your area. Use this [IHS directory](#).
- Purchase the [Distance Learning Course \(DLC\)](#) and register your book. You can purchase the DL Course and Trainer Manual package at a discounted rate.
- Purchase the [IHS Trainer Manual](#):
  - This is the ONE resource that pulls all your book learning and practical skills together. It is essential to helping you pass your licensing exam.
  - Here's [a letter](#) to help you [ask your supervisor](#) to invest in and use the manual with you.
- Sign up to be an IHS member (FREE for new students through the DL Student Information Form, included in your course materials).

- ❑ View key IHS webinars (for Free):
  - [FDA Red Flags](#)
  - [Infection Control](#)
  - [Fitting Methods](#)
  - [Real Ear Measures](#)
  - [Tympanometry](#)
  - [Ethics: Exercise \(or Exorcise\) Legal and Ethical Dilemmas](#)
  - [How to Avoid the Top Ethics Pitfalls](#)
- ❑ Take all [40 DLC lesson tests and the Final Exam online](#).
- ❑ Insist your sponsor test you on each core skill presented in the Trainer Manual and provide you feedback and assessment.
- ❑ Complete a self-assessment on each core skill and review it with your mentor. 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 sit for the IHS International Licensing Exam. When IHS is informed by your state/provincial board that you meet the requirements, the IHS Study Guide will be made available to you (applies to 45 U.S. states and 5 Canadian provinces using the IHS International Licensing Exam\*).
- ❑ Keep working toward proficiency in each core skill and continue to practice until you reach mastery level. Competency assessments are the key to your success.
- ❑ Purchase suggested reading materials noted in the IHS Study Guide (some are sold by IHS; others can be purchased elsewhere). Be sure you have studied all material mentioned in the IHS Study Guide.
- ❑ Follow up with your [state/provincial licensing board](#) to apply for your licensing exam date(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.

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

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