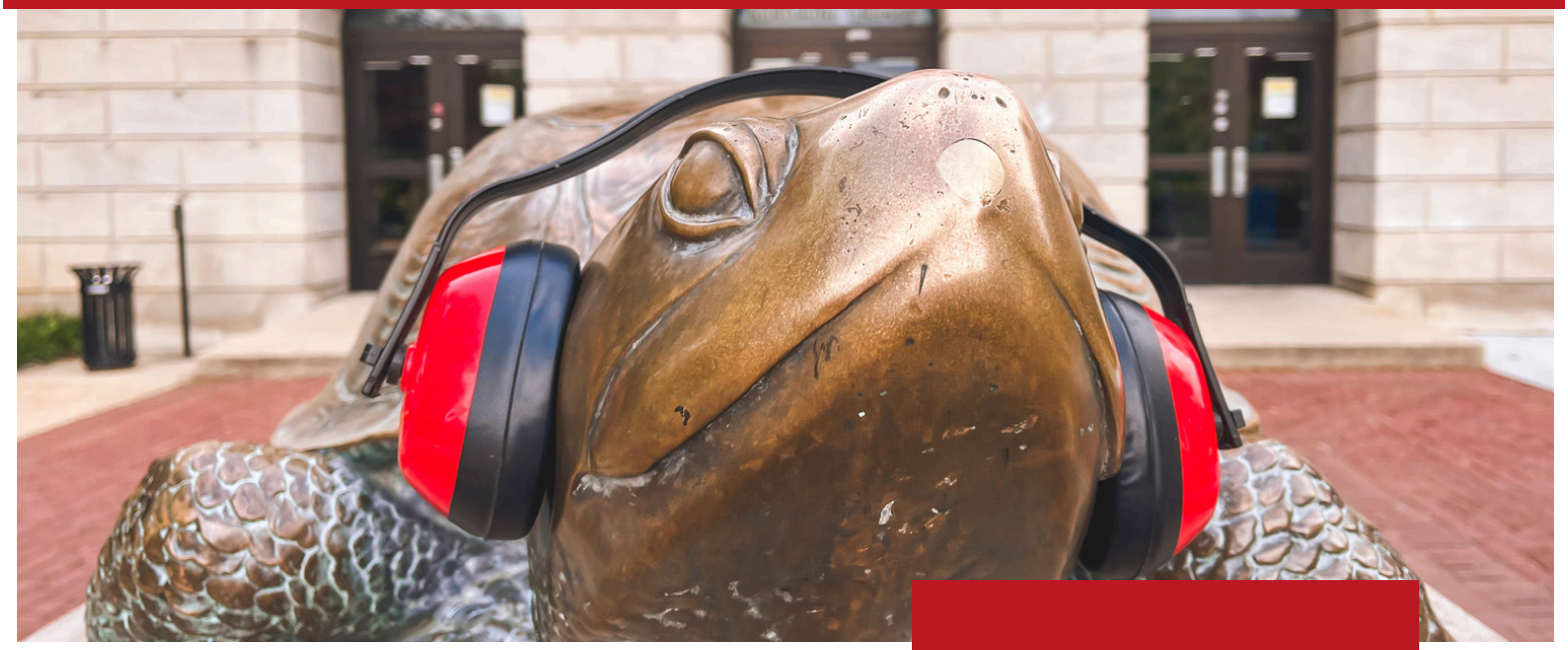
Hear the Turtle

@umd_saa

Newsletter



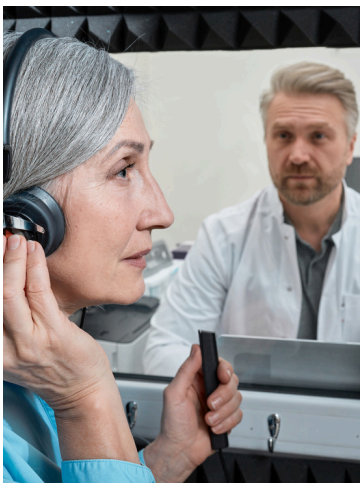
ENT vs. Audiologist

ENT:

- Medical professional that provides treatment (e.g., surgery) of ear disorders

Audiologist:

- Non-medical professional that assists in the management of hearing and balance disorders



Fun Facts:

- October is Audiology Awareness Month!
- Ears are self-cleaning, which is why you shouldn't use Q-Tips.
- Ears play a role in hearing AND balance.

Types of Hearing Loss

CONDUCTIVE

A conductive hearing loss occurs when something is wrong in the outer/middle ear. This could be due to an anatomical change in the middle ear, or from ear wax blocking the ear canal.

SENSORINEURAL

A sensorineural hearing loss indicates that there is a problem in the inner ear.

MIXED

A mixed hearing loss is the presentation of conductive and sensorineural hearing loss components.

HOW TO READ AN AUDIOGRAM

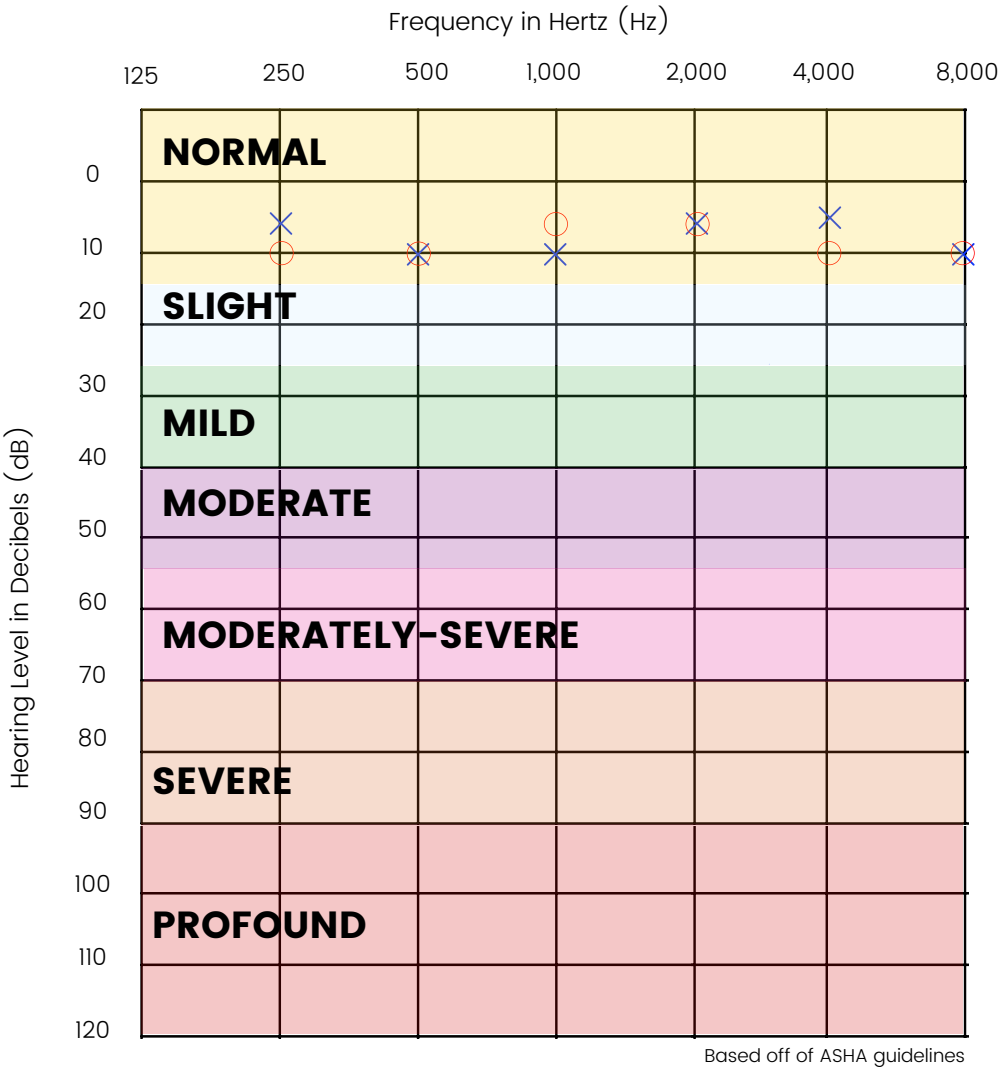
An audiogram displays the hearing sensitivity of the patient. Typically, patients will be asked to press a button or raise their hand anytime they hear a beep. These beeps will get softer in volume. The softest volume the patient can hear the beep is called the threshold. These are plotted for each pitch on the graph as X's and O's.

The red O's represent the responses of the right ear, and the blue X's depict the left ear.

On the audiogram to the right, the X's and O's fall within the normal range of hearing. Once thresholds drop below 15 dB, audiologists begin to categorize the hearing loss by degree of severity. These degrees include: slight, mild, moderate, moderately-severe, severe, and profound hearing losses.

Questions to consider for your first hearing test:

1. Are there listening situations that you find difficult?
2. Would you be interested in trying hearing aids if you are a candidate?
3. Do you want your communication partner (spouse/partner, family, friend, etc.), to join you for the appointment?



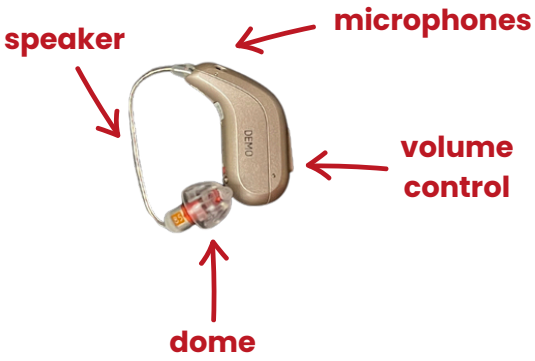
Nearby Clinics

- UMD HESP Clinic (College Park, MD)
- Live Better Hearing + Balance (Silver Spring, MD)
- Hearing Healthcare Services (Bowie, MD)
- Jacobs Audiology (Bowie, MD)
- Audiology Associates, Inc. (Annapolis, MD)
- Audiology Associates (Washington, DC)

AN INTRODUCTION TO HEARING AIDS

Depending on the type of hearing loss, hearing aids may be a management option for you! Hearing aids come in different styles and colors.

- "Invisible" hearing aids = in the ear
  - Completely-in-the-canal (CIC)
  - In-the-Ear (ITE)
- "Visible" hearing aids = on the ear
  - Behind-the-ear (BTE)
  - Receiver-in-the-ear (RITE)
    - Shown in the image on the right



Sound will be picked up by the microphones, and then amplified by the hearing aid. Then, the amplified sound is presented to your ear via the speaker.

READ MORE

MARYLAND RESOURCES

Maryland Relay

Provides FREE services (ex: Captioned Telephone) for individuals who have difficulty communicating on the phone.

Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)

A non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the awareness of hearing loss and making resources accessible for those with hearing loss and their families.

Hosts the Walk4Hearing to empower individuals with hearing loss. Join Team UMD Audiology today!

Register here.