

Analysis of the AuD Externship Application Process

Trent Westrick, AuD

ABSTRACT

Graduate students in audiology applying for final-year AuD externships are faced with a variety of challenges. Data collected from various stages of the application process, including the number of applications submitted, differences in application requirements, and variances in the application timeline, have been analyzed.

BACKGROUND

Since the mid-1990s, successful completion of an AuD externship year has served as a final prerequisite for graduation and professional licensure. For many years, individual clinical sites have utilized application-based processes to select their extern. Many clinical sites advertise available externship positions in online “postings” in an effort to attract high-quality and diverse applicants from AuD programs across the country. In recent years, securing AuD externships has become increasingly more competitive, challenging, and stressful for students. Many of these challenges are the result of a non-standardized AuD externship application process.

METHODS

A basic retrospective analysis of online AuD externship position “postings” during the 2020-2021 academic year was conducted. Details regarding a variety of aspects of available externship positions was collected, including locations, timelines, and application requirements. Externship application data from AuD students at Pacific University was analyzed. Additional information collected during the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 academic years was examined.

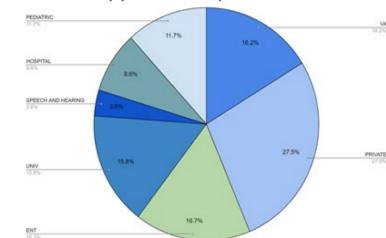
RESULTS

Externship Position Postings by Academic Year	
2020-2021:	223
2019-2020:	214
2018-2019:	226

2020-2021 Application Cycle Geographic Locations



2020-2021 Application Cycle Practice Settings



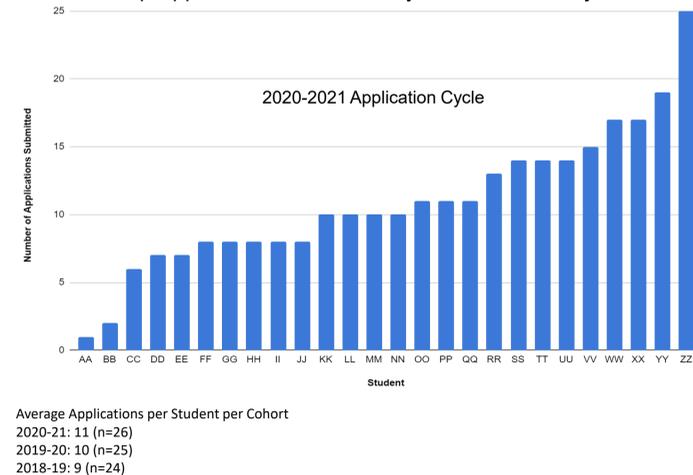
RESULTS

2020-2021 Application Requirements (n=223)

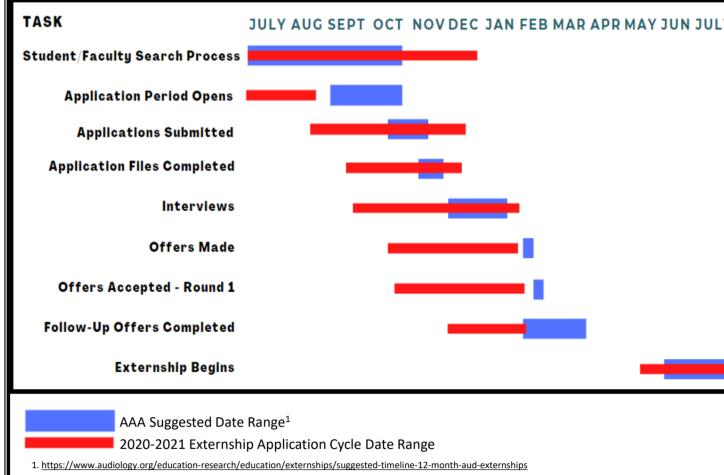
- ✓ Resume/Curriculum Vitae.....100%
- ✓ Cover Letter/Letter of Intent.....95%
- ✓ Letters of Recommendation.....93%
- ✓ Graduate Transcript.....55%
- ✓ Other Site-Specific Requirement.....12%

- ✓ Stipend Offered.....71%

Externship Applications Submitted by Pacific University Students



AAA Suggested Externship Timeline vs. 2020-2021



SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

A wide variety of externship positions are made available to AuD students each year. Students have the opportunity to apply for externship positions located throughout the country in a broad range of clinical practice settings. Externship positions are well-advertised by clinical sites in online postings. Most externship application requirements are similar, yet some sites request additional application components. Pacific University students applied for an average of 11 externship positions during the 2020-2021 externship application cycle. The current externship application timeline does not follow AAA’s suggested timeline. Sites begin accepting applications, interviewing students, and making decisions much sooner than recommended. The lack of a standardized process creates unnecessary challenges for students, program coordinators, and externship sites.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Development of a single centralized AuD externship application system (CAS)
- Standardized application requirements and documents
- Standardized national application and decision windows
- Improved communication between academic programs, national membership organizations, and externship sites

Trent Westrick, AuD
 Associate Professor & Externship Coordinator
 Pacific University School of Audiology
 trent.westrick@pacificu.edu