

HLAA Training

INTRODUCTION TO HEARING LOSS

*Building Knowledge to Better Serve People with Hearing Loss
and the Professionals who Support Them*

COURSE OVERVIEW AND REGISTRATION MATERIALS
2011

Administered by the Hearing Loss Association of America

www.hearingloss.org

The **Introduction to Hearing Loss** is administered by the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), the nation's leading consumer advocacy organization for people with hearing loss. The course offers an online, self-paced, distance-learning program, and provides basic knowledge and understanding of hearing loss for professionals and individuals.

The curriculum has been developed by HLAA staff, the Training Advisory Board and other leaders in the field.

Objective

Courses developed by HLAA intend to build accurate, foundational knowledge; increase understanding; improve services; and enhance the quality of life for people with hearing loss and their families. It is also a very effective course for the many people in diverse professions who support people with hearing loss.

Please note that the **Introduction to Hearing Loss** course offers a certificate not a credential, and is dedicated to *increasing knowledge and understanding* rather than establishing a set of standards.

Overview

The self-paced, online learning program will consist of nine lessons:

- ⇒ **The Basics & Impact on Communication**
- ⇒ **Describing Hearing Loss**
- ⇒ **Myths About Hearing Loss**
- ⇒ **Encouraging Use of Hearing Aids**
- ⇒ **Demographics of Hearing Loss**
- ⇒ **Ear Anatomy and Function**
- ⇒ **Hearing Test**
- ⇒ **Signs and Symptoms of Hearing Loss**
- ⇒ **Treating Hearing Loss**

The nine lessons (above) contain approximately four to five modules, each and includes graded quizzes, non-graded activities, interactive online discussion forums for students and resources. The course ends with a graded final exam which is drawn from the practice questions in the lesson quizzes. Lessons, exercises and tests can be completed at the student's own pace from a computer with Internet access. (See [FAQ](#) for details).

Program Costs

Tuition for the **Introduction to Hearing Loss** course is \$75. This fee includes: registration process, access to the HLAA course on CourseSites by Blackboard, access to quizzes and the final exam.

Registration

To register, please visit www.hearingloss.org/ and complete the registration form online. You will have the opportunity to pay by credit card through our secure server. Or please fill out the enclosed registration form, enclose a check or credit card information, and submit to HLAA by mail:

HLAA—Training
7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200
Bethesda, MD 20814

Introduction to Hearing Loss — Lesson Overview

Basics & Impact on Communication

Hearing loss pulls at the very fabric that people base their lives on — communication. This lesson describes the impact of hearing loss on communication and describes how a problem solving mindset can minimize these difficulties.

Describing People with Hearing Loss

The language used to describe disabilities is evolving as societal awareness and sensitivity is increasing. There is currently no universally agreed upon descriptor for people with hearing loss. This lesson addresses the perils of “labeling” people and provides guidelines on how to use descriptors in a sensitive manner.

Myths about Hearing Loss

The amount of misinformation about hearing loss is staggering. In this lesson, we learn the common misconceptions about hearing loss as well as how we can use these misconceptions as a building block to promote greater general knowledge.

Encouraging use of Hearing Aids

Only one out of five people who can benefit from hearing aids get them and even fewer wear them on a consistent basis. This lesson addresses some of the major barriers and provides guidelines on how they may be remediated.

Demographics of Hearing Loss

When the average person thinks of a hard of hearing or deaf person, they may think of a much older adult, a person who communicates with sign language, or a small child. Who makes up the largest number of people with hearing loss? The numbers may surprise you.

Ear Anatomy and Function

Virtually encapsulated into two parcels of human organs the size of a pair of dice, the inner workings of the human ear are dazzling. This lesson describes how hearing loss affects this complex miniature system and how hearing aids and cochlear implants help people hear better.

Hearing Tests

This lesson provides a key to the basic road map used to measure hearing loss — the audiogram. Modules explain how to understand the basic information contained in an audiogram, as well as concepts such as symmetry, laterality, and speech discrimination.

Signs and Symptoms

This lesson explains some of the most common causes of hearing loss, and provides the framework for understanding less common causes. Regardless of the cause of hearing loss, the main treatment options are the same for most hearing loss and this lesson covers the basics of all of them.

Treating Hearing Loss

Two people with identical hearing losses may communicate in very different ways. This lesson provides some case studies of how hearing loss affects different people and provides guidelines on how to help people determine which technology and services may best match their needs.

The HLAA Training Advisory Board

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For more information about the HLAA training, please visit www.hearingloss.org and read the materials posted online. If you still have questions, please contact training@hearingloss.org.