

Becoming an AHIP Hearing Instrument Dispenser and Hearing Instrument Specialist

Those who have met the educational requirements leading to obtaining a provincial certificate* or diploma* in the field of audiometric evaluation and hearing instrument provision are eligible for full membership in AHIP as a **Hearing Instrument Dispenser (H.I.D.)**. In requesting membership from AHIP, applicants must provide proof of education (certificate or diploma) and payment of registration fees.

A **Hearing Instrument Dispenser (H.I.D.)** is certified in the fitting, counselling and dispensing of hearing instruments and associated devices, and the removal of cerumen from the external ear canal where a member's practice includes it. Hearing Instrument Dispensers whose practice includes the removal of cerumen shall have successfully completed the educational requirements of AHIP for the removal of cerumen.

As a new **Hearing Instrument Dispenser (H.I.D.)**, practitioners must to register with Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care – Assisted Devices Program.

Once graduates have become full members of AHIP, they are eligible for the **Hearing Instrument Specialist (H.I.S.)** Internship Program. Applications must successfully complete 1000 hours of practical work within 36 months, monitored by either a Hearing Instrument Specialist or Audiologist.

During this time period, graduates must also successfully complete the International Licensing Exam.

Hearing Instrument Specialists (H.I.S.) are certified in the practice of testing hearing, selection, fitting, counselling and dispensing of hearing instruments and associated devices and the removal of cerumen from the external ear canal where a member's practice includes it. Hearing Instrument Specialists' whose practice includes the removal of cerumen shall have successfully completed the educational requirements of AHIP for the removal of cerumen.

After successfully completing all requirements of the program, the applicant's qualifications are reviewed by the AHIP Board of Directors before the Hearing Instrument Specialist is certified by AHIP.

After obtaining certification, if the **Hearing Instrument Specialist (H.I.S.)** is considering opening their own practice, they are eligible to apply to Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care – Assisted Devices Program for an Authorizer number and then can apply to AHIP for a Vendor Internship, which is an additional 2000 hours to be completed over.

In order to maintain their certification in good standing with AHIP and Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care – Assisted Devices Program, the practitioner must complete 10 hours of continuing education units annually, be paid up to date with their membership and abide by the AHIP Professional Code of Conduct.

**AHIP recognizes educational certificates or diplomas offered by the following colleges:
George Brown College, Ontario; Conestoga College, Ontario; Grant McEwan College, Alberta;
Rosemont College, Quebec.