The 4th year of the academic program is designed to be a full-time clinical experience at an external site which provides a wide range of patient care activities. As modeled by the profession, the 4th year externship is designed to be a year-long experience where basic clinical skills are refined and advanced skills are learned. The following guidelines have been developed to aid the student in understanding the requirements of the 4th year externship experience.

* While no site can provide the full scope of audiologic practice, students should not be seeking an externship in a site with limited experiences.
* Because the externship is part of an educational program, we ask that the audiology staff of the externship host undertake opportunities to assist students in their learning endeavors.
* Financial aid, including tuition assistance, “salary”, assistantships, moving expenses, or any other such titled compensation, is not required and should not be expected. However, there are no restrictions regarding a student accepting such compensation if offered.
* Obtaining a provisional, temporary, interim or regular license to practice audiology in the state of the host institution is discouraged.
* Through the acceptance of an externship, a student is required to fulfill all obligations of the appointment, including following all rules and regulations of the host institution, fulfilling all time commitments, and adhering to all policies regarding vacations, holidays, and professional leave.
* Students are responsible for assuring that their externship meets all necessary requirements for licensure laws in states they may desire to practice. Licensure laws supersede all requirements for completion of the academic program.
* Students are required to complete, at a minimum, 48 weeks of a full-time externship. Full-time means the equivalent of a traditional 40-hour work week on-site. Included within the 48-week time requirement are any and all holiday vacations, professional leaves granted by the host institution.
* For students in good standing, externships must be started by July 1st following the end of the spring semester of the 3rd year. Students will be allowed to graduate at the end of the spring semester of the 4th year provided the July 1st start date has been met and provided more than 85% of the externship has been completed. Students must complete their obligations to the externship site even if allowed to graduate.
* For those individuals not meeting the July 1 start date or the 85% completion criteria, students may participate in graduation ceremonies but will not officially graduate until the end of the semester following completion of the externship. The program’s regulations regarding participation in graduation ceremonies are subject to the rules of the Graduate School and School of Medicine, which may prevent the student from participation in the graduation ceremonies.