Pacific Audiology Group

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DIAGNOSTIC HEARING TEST

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides you with the foundational knowledge and understanding you need to do a hearing evaluation following best practices. The course includes an introduction to relevant anatomy and physiology of hearing and critical concepts required to perform an accurate diagnostic assessment. Topics range from hearing screenings, threshold assessments, speech testing, and masking. Each lesson includes quizzes to check your understanding and a practical simulation activity using Theta, an online hearing test simulator. With Theta, learners will get hands-on practical experience in a low-risk environment as it simulates realistic, human-like responses during practice testing.

CURRICULUM

1. **Unit 1: Intro and Anatomy**
   a. The human ear
   b. The outer ear
   c. The middle ear
   d. The inner ear
2. **Unit 2: Hearing Test Basics**
   a. The audiogram
   b. Audiogram interpretation
   c. The audiometer
   d. Hearing screening
3. **Unit 3: Finding Thresholds**
   a. Air conduction thresholds
   b. Bone conduction thresholds
   c. Air conduction masking
   d. Bone conduction masking
4. **Unit 4: Speech Testing**
   a. Speech recognition thresholds
   b. Word recognition scores
   c. Speech masking
5. **Unit 5: The hearing evaluation**
   a. Differential diagnosis
   b. Additional recourses

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. By completing this course, you will gain the theoretical knowledge necessary to complete a comprehensive hearing test. This includes basic ear anatomy, mechanisms of hearing (conductive vs. sensory vs. neural), principles and concepts associated with masking, need for assessment, and consistency among tests.

2. By completing this course, you will gain practical experience in aspects of a clinical hearing assessment including otoscopy, tympanometry, hearing screening, threshold searches, speech testing. Experience will come from learning and simulated exercises to develop your skills.

3. By completing this course, you will gain practical experience with air, bone, and speech masking. This includes identifying when masking is required on unmasked audiograms, selecting initial stimulus and masking levels, and performing plateau or other masking procedures as appropriate.