

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

RESEARCH SAFETY

HEARING CONSERVATION



How Purdue Supports Safe Hearing Practices

What Is the Hearing Conservation Program?

Purdue University's Hearing Conservation Program helps protect faculty, staff and students from noise-induced hearing loss caused by workplace sound exposure. Prolonged exposure to high noise levels can lead to permanent hearing damage, so the program supports safe work practices and ensures compliance with federal regulations.

When the Program Applies:

Individuals are enrolled in the program when their noise exposure reaches an 8-hour time-weighted average (TWA) of 85 dBA. Hearing protection is required at 90 dBA or higher. Common high-noise areas include mechanical rooms, shops, construction zones, labs and areas with machinery or power tools.

Program Components:

- Noise monitoring to identify hazardous areas
- Free hearing protection (earplugs or earmuffs)
- Baseline and annual audiometric testing
- Annual training on noise hazards and proper use of hearing protection
- Record-keeping and regular program review

Your Responsibilities:

- Wear hearing protection when required
- Complete annual training and audiometric testing
- Report high-noise concerns, damaged protectors or faulty equipment
- Do not substitute hearing aids or headphones for required protection

Need Assistance?

Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) oversees the program and can help with noise evaluations, hearing protection selection, audiometric scheduling and training.



Administrative Operations

Environmental Health and Safety

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Purdue Pete using ear plugs at the M.D. Audiology Clinic located in Lyles-Porter Hall.