

# CAOHC- Approved Occupational Hearing Conservationist Certification Course

Online: August 22-24, 2022

Onsite: Davenport, IA -Aug 25 or Altoona, IA -Aug 26

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** This 20 hour course is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the basic components of hearing conservation in industrial settings and prepare participants to perform hearing testing and otherwise support their hearing conservation programs.

This hybrid course provides 3 part-days of online instruction via Zoom, and a final day of hands-on, practical training. At the end of the hands-on day, students will take the CAOHC certification exam.

## OBJECTIVES

Upon course completion, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the responsibilities and scope of practice of Occupational Hearing Conservationists.
2. Discuss basic anatomy of the ear.
3. Identify types and causes of hearing loss, and bases for appropriate review and referral.
4. Describe the effects of hearing loss on communication, safety, and quality of life.
5. Discuss the impact of environmental factors, including noise and ototoxins, on hearing and health.
6. Understand basic noise measurement and noise control.
7. Be familiar with fundamentals of sound physics.
8. Identify parts of audiometric equipment, maintenance, calibration requirements, and potential issues with equipment or testing environment.
9. Administer pure tone air conduction audiometric tests, compliant with federal standards.
10. Manage special issues in hearing conservation.
11. Discuss federal and state regulations regarding hearing conservation.
12. Identify hearing protection device types, and describe purposes, fitting, maintenance, and efficacy.
13. Discuss requirements for hearing conservation education, and ways of motivating safety behaviors.
14. Identify necessary record-keeping for compliance with regulations and for best practice.

For further details on the curriculum, please visit: <http://www.caohc.org/occupational-hearing-conservationist/ohc-course-curriculum>

## Additional resources (optional):

CAOHC offers both a Hearing Conservation Manual and a Study Guide for students. While class notes and presentations are designed to comprehensively cover hearing conservation in preparation for the certification exam, students may benefit from supplementing their course experience with one or both of these resources.

The CAOHC materials are available for order at: <http://www.caohc.org/educational-resources>

These materials can also be ordered through the course director (see registration form) at a discount. Ordered materials will be sent out with course notes in advance of the class.

## Certification Course Schedule

### Monday, August 22

- 10:00 Introductions, CEU information
- 10:10 Hearing Conservation and Noise: an Introduction
- 10:45 Role of the Occupational Hearing Conservationist
- 11:30 Anatomy and Physiology of the Ears
- 12:15 Lunch
- 12:45 The Audiometer and the Test Environment
- 1:30 Audiometric Technique
- 2:15 Break
- 2:30 Regulations
- 4:00 Adjourn

### Tuesday, August 23

- 10:00 Physics of Sound and Hearing – *Guest speaker Matt Nonnenmann*
- 11:15 Record-keeping
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:30 Audiometric Equipment, Care, and Calibration –*Guest Speaker Brian Hough*
- 1:15 Audiometric Technique: Histories and Special Problems
- 2:00 Break
- 2:15 Audiogram Review: Referral and Follow up
- 3:15 Ototoxins and Otoprotectants
- 4:00 Adjourn

### Wednesday, August 24

- 10:00 Personal Hearing Protection
- 11:15 Education and Motivation
- 12:15 Lunch
- 12:45 Testing During the Pandemic: Discussion
- 1:15 Review
- 2:15 Break
- 2:30 Review
- 4:00 Adjourn

### Thursday, August 25(Davenport) or Friday, August 26 (Altoona)

- 10:00 Otoscopy/ HPD practicum
- 11:00 Audiometric practicum
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:30 Audiometric Practicum/ practical exam
- 2:15 Break
- 2:30 Last questions; exam prep
- 2:45-4:00 Exam

## About the Instructors:

**Laura Kauth:** The course director and primary instructor is Laura Kauth, MA, CPS/A. Laura has taught CAOHC courses since 2001 through the University of Iowa, the Iowa-Illinois Safety Council, and independently. She is an active member of the National Hearing Conservation Association, serving as President of that organization in 2012-2013, and currently as Director of Education. She has 20 years of experience as a professional supervisor for hearing conservation programs. Laura is committed to the effective prevention of hearing loss, and encourages students to consider her an ongoing resource in this important area of occupational health.

**Matthew Nonnenmann:** Hearing and Noise Measurement will be covered by Matt Nonnenmann, PhD, CIH. An Associate Professor at the University of Iowa College of Public Health (Department of Occupational and Environmental Health), Matt teaches courses on assessment of hazard from noise and other occupational exposures. His research interests focus on physical, chemical, and biological exposures among workers and families in agriculture, forestry, and fishing industries.

**Brian Hough:** Brian will be discussing audiometric equipment selection, maintenance, and repair. Brian has a background in audiology and trained at the University of Nebraska. He has worked in the instrumentation field for the past 14 years; as part of the Midwest Special Instruments team, he specializes in hearing testing equipment as well as other Occupational Health systems. Brian has been assisting with numerous CAOHC courses in the Nebraska and Iowa area for over 15 years, bringing his expertise in hearing testing and equipment to the class.

## Location:

The hands-on portion of the course will be held in:

**Davenport, Aug 25: The Village Theatre**  
2113 E 11<sup>th</sup> St  
Davenport, IA 52803

**Altoona, Aug 26: Holiday Inn Express**  
165 Adventureland Dr  
NW, Altoona, Iowa 50009

Class will run from 10 am to 4 pm each day (both online and the face-to-face), with breaks and lunch. Lunch and beverages are included in the course fee for the on-site day.

**Additional locations** may be offered as requested; Please contact the course director if interested.

## Educational Credit:

The University of Iowa College of Nursing is Iowa Board of Nursing provider #1. With full attendance, 18.75 contact hours will be awarded.

## About the Exam:

The CAOHC online certification exam will be administered at the end of the class. **Students are responsible for providing their own laptop/tablet to access the exam.** The examination is a standardized form produced and graded by CAOHC, consistent with both American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards. Results are typically provided to the student immediately upon completion. In the event that a student does not pass the initial exam, there is a remotely proctored online retest. The class registration includes the CAOHC certification and exam fee; if a retest is needed, the first retest fee is waived.

## Cancellations:

In the event of significant changes in circumstances due to either COVID-19 or other severe circumstances, the face-to-face portion of this course may be rescheduled in a manner which best accommodates all students. In the event that a student has been diagnosed with COVID-19, has had a positive test, is experiencing symptoms, or is otherwise concerned about attending for COVID-19 related reasons, an alternate date for completion of the face-to-face portion will be scheduled, or a full refund will be provided.

Registrations which are cancelled for other reasons by Aug 5 will be refunded in full minus \$50; after that point, cancellations will be refunded 75% through August 19. No refund will be made after the course has commenced, except in case of emergency. Please contact the course director in that event.

## COVID-19 Measures:

The face-to-face day will be capped at 8 attendees per location per day. If there is sufficient interest, additional face-to-face days and locations will be scheduled.

- Students will observe physical distancing as well as possible during all parts of the practicum.
- Masks will likely be required. These should be medical, or higher, grade. **Please remember to bring your own mask if you have a preference.** N-95s and KN-95s will be available.
- Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes for the audiometers and other equipment will be provided.
- If you have had a positive test, or a recent exposure,** please contact the Course Director to discuss scheduling an alternate date.

Please contact Course Director Laura Kauth with any additional questions at (563) 499-6627, or email at [Lstkauth@gmail.com](mailto:Lstkauth@gmail.com).

*This course is sponsored by the Heartland Center for Occupational Health & Safety. Special thanks to the Heartland Center and the UI College of Nursing for continued support of these courses.*



**Registration:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address for Materials: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact information:**

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Any necessary accommodations? (ADA, Spanish test, etc):**

_____ Certification course	\$650
_____ Preferred onsite location: Davenport, August 25	_____
_____ Altoona, August 26	_____

**Optional additions:**

_____ CAOHC Hearing Conservation Manual	\$65
_____ CAOHC Study Guide	\$10

Please e-mail completed registration form to [Lstkauth@gmail.com](mailto:Lstkauth@gmail.com). Invoicing is done through Square; payment can be made online via a credit card, or mailed to:

Laura Kauth  
PO Box 4181  
Davenport, IA 52808

If you choose to mail in your information/ payment, please call or e-mail to confirm registration.