Career Journal #1 Thad Estes

**Interview with an Audiologist**

**What are your duties and responsibilities working as an audiologist?**

I examine and clean patients’ ear canals. I also administer assistive devices, like hearing aids, to help with hearing and speech disorders, which I also evaluate and diagnose. To diagnose a disorder I also have to give tests.

**What do you like about this occupation?**

I like seeing my patients’ progress and watching them achieve the goals that I’ve set for them.

**What do you dislike about this occupation?**

I extremely dislike seeing very distraught patients coming into my practice and it kind of makes me sad seeing that, but I am very glad that I get the chance to help them.

**What is your educational background?**

Recently, I had to earn a doctoral degree, as prior to 2012, I had my master’s degree. They upped the standard, so I had to go back to school and earn my doctorate prior to 2012.

**What is a typical day like for you?**

On any given day, I may be identifying auditory problems, interpret examination results, administer treatments, tune and fit cochlear implants, or recommend and fit hearing aids.

**What is the salary range for someone in this occupation?**

When I first began being an audiologist, I earned around $60,960. Now that I have a higher degree and I have been working for about 7ish years, I earn around $81,000.

**What is your most satisfying experience so far?**

When I helped my first patient, who had a speech impediment. I enjoyed seeing the faces of his family as he said his first words that he had ever said to them at age 16.

**What advice do you have for someone considering this career field?**

I would say that someone who doesn’t like helping people should not consider this field. If someone loves helping people and putting a lot of effort and thought into the treatment, then they should definitely consider the field.