Hearing Health at

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
• Speech-Language-Hearing Center

Housed in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Help people of all ages with communication disorders

Hearing Clinic open year round
Speech-Language Clinic

Full range of prevention, evaluation, and intervention services

- Accent reduction
- Articulation
- Fluency
- Language
- Voice

Certified and licensed Speech-language pathologists and Audiologists supervise graduate students

Worcester State University
• Hearing Clinic

Services for Adults
Comprehensive Hearing Evaluations

- Pure-Tone & Speech Audiometry
- Impittance testing
- Otoacoustic Emissions
• Hearing Center

Hearing Aid Services

- Fully Digital Customized Products
- Hearing Aid Consultation, Orientation and Follow-Up Appointments
- On-Site Hearing Aid Checks and Repairs
- Hearing Aid Batteries and Supplies
• Hearing Center

Custom Ear Molds

• Ear Molds for Hearing Aids
• Musician Ear Molds and Monitors
• Swim Molds
• Hearing Protection Molds
• Hearing Center

Communication Therapy

• Group and Individual Therapy
• Hearing Aid Care and Maintenance
• Communication Strategies
• Hearing Assistive Technology
• “Living Well With Hearing Loss” Presentations
Overview: “Living Well With Hearing Loss”

- Hearing loss statistics, signs, and symptoms
- Personal/social effects of hearing loss
- Communication styles
- Evaluation
- Hearing aids and hearing assistive technology
“Living Well With Hearing Loss”
Symptoms of Hearing Loss

• Hear some people better than others
  Complaints of “mumbling”

• Ringing or buzzing in ears

• Trouble hearing
  • On the phone
  • TV with others
  • In group situations
  • In the presence of background noise
“Living Well With Hearing Loss”
Social Consequences

- Avoidance of social situations
- Negative self-image
  - Feeling less competent
  - Feeling left out
- Frustration or Anger
  - At self
    - Can’t follow conversation
  - At others
    - Conversation partners not speaking loud enough
“Living Well With Hearing Loss”
Social Consequences

- Anxiety
  - About appearing incompetent
  - About asking for repetition or clarification

- Depression
  - Higher prevalence among people with hearing loss

- Loneliness
  - Alone “easier” than struggling to understand

(Carmen, 2005)
“Living Well With Hearing Loss”
Communication Styles

- Passive
- Aggressive
- Assertive
“Living Well With Hearing Loss”

Evaluation

• Self Evaluation
• Appointment for hearing evaluation
• Recommendations
  • Hearing aids
  • Hearing assistive technology
  • Communication therapy
“Living Well With Hearing Loss”
Communication Strategies

C: Control communication situations

L: Look at the speaker

E: Expectations should be realistic

A: Assertiveness

R: Repair strategies
“Living Well With Hearing Loss”
Communication Strategies for Communication Partners

S: Spotlight your face

P: Pause

E: Empathize

E: Ease the person’s listening

C: Control the circumstances

H: Have a plan

(Tye-Murray, 2009)
Comprehensive Plan
to Facilitate
Hearing Health
at WSU
Questions?