



Student Membership, Convention, & White Coat Pinning Ceremony

FAQ

What does it cost to be a Student Member of FLAA?

NOTHING! Student membership in FLAA is free.

Can Students attend the Annual FLAA Convention?

YES! Students are highly encouraged to attend the annual convention AND join in the White Coat Pinning Ceremony.

To get started, the Student must first complete a membership application, as a FREE Student Member. The application can be found online at www.floridaaudiology.org. Once the application is submitted, a membership username and password will be issued via e-mail. This username and password will be needed to complete the online convention registration form.

After the membership application is completed, the Student should complete the online Student Convention and White Coat Pinning Ceremony registration form, which can be found at www.floridaaudiology.org.

What does it cost for a Student to attend the Convention?

There are three options from which Students can choose for attending the convention. The rate(s) vary depending upon the choice.

Option 1

Attend the full convention as a paid registration at the Student Member rate of \$150. This option includes attendance at the White Coat Pinning Ceremony.

Option 2

Attend the full convention FREE by volunteering at least 4 hours during the convention. This option includes attendance at the White Coat Pinning Ceremony.

Option 3

Attend ONLY the White Coat Pinning Ceremony FREE. This option does NOT allow for attendance at any convention sessions.

What is the White Coat Pinning Ceremony?

The White Coat Pinning Ceremony symbolizes the transition of first-year students (going into second) from didactic studies to a concentration on laboratory course work and clinical experiences. The ceremony includes the recitation of The Audiology Oath, which expresses the student's understanding of the immense responsibility, respect, and honor of wearing the white coat during clinical rotations. The participating students (*while wearing their white coats*), and be "pinned" by their University's faculty representative with their own personal FLAA pin.

History of the White Coat

The White Coat Ceremony was initiated at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons some 15 years ago. The White Coat Ceremony has now become a ritual at most medical, dental, and allied health schools in the United States. It is an important rite of passage in the life of students studying to enter health-care careers as it represents a major step towards a life-long commitment of service to improve the lives of those in need of your special skills. With your acceptance of this white coat, you will continue your journey to elevate your knowledge and skills to the highest professional level. The white coat is the visual representation to all who see you of your commitment to a professional career in health services.

In the early history of medicine, clerical caretakers in hospitals wore black robes. However, the severe tone of these black robes conveyed a sense of mourning and even death – perhaps sadly appropriate for those brought to hospitals in critical condition in medieval times. During the early part of the 19th century, scientists and academic professors wore beige laboratory coats. By the close of the 19th century physicians adopted white lab coats as hospitals became centers for healing. The white lab coat, then, became the color universally associated with hope and compassionate care. The white coat is a symbolic reminder of the professional relationship between you and the clients or patients you serve.

Professionalism is a behavior and attitude that begins today and persists throughout the duration of your career. Audiologists are professionals who represent a mix of diverse personality characteristics, but who share a common knowledge base, with recognized clinical skills and the personal values necessary to provide services to persons with hearing and balance disorders. Audiologists tend to have a strong sense of calling and a willingness to work in the realm of professional public service where one is self-fulfilled from benefiting others.

As you move to this next level of learning, it is worth reviewing how audiology fits into the definition of a profession:

- A profession has a specialized body of knowledge that has value to society;
- A profession is reflected by a single unifying academic degree, a defined level of competency, and a state-issued license;
- A professional upholds high ethical standards and adhere to a code of conduct;
- A professional is defined by the specialized services provided;
- A professional is accountable to the persons served, by regulatory agencies, and by peers and colleagues.
- A professional adheres to a high standard of practice and demonstrates continued excellence in knowledge, personal character and achievement.

Here are some words of wisdom to consider as you go forth:

- Treat every patient as if he or she is a member of your immediate family;
- Remember that less is often more;
- Listening will be your greatest asset;
- Be meticulous and methodical in your work and services;
- Carefully remain within the bounds and limits of your training;
- Be fully aware that your words and actions may be the turning point in people's lives.

There will be huge responsibilities ahead of you as you advocate better hearing for your patients. Along with those responsibilities, you will have unique opportunities to be the intervening positive factor in people's lives. Just imagine how many persons will feel the result of the decisions you make on behalf of a hearing-impaired child – and perhaps this will help you understand the importance of every interaction you have with patients.

For more information, contact the Florida Academy of Audiology at (561) 477-8100 or execdir@floridaaudiology.org.