Classroom Assistance: Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Understanding Deaf or Hard of Hearing Students?

Students who have very little or no functional hearing often refer to themselves as Deaf. Those with milder hearing loss may label themselves as hard of hearing. Accommodations that rely on the student's sight will include sign language interpreters, lip reading, and captioning; accommodations that rely on the student's hearing abilities will include amplification devices such as FM systems.

Suggested Best Practices for Deaf or Hard of Hearing Students

✓ Provide students with a lecture outline and try to follow it closely.
✓ Supply students with copies of your presentation notes and overheads.
✓ Offer / encourage students to utilize preferential seating.
✓ Repeat comments and questions asked by other students who are not in the range of vision for students with hearing disabilities.
✓ Use closed-captioned videos whenever possible.
✓ Direct your conversation to hearing-impaired students, not to their interpreters.
✓ Use visual media (overheads, handouts) as much as possible.
✓ Provide a list of technical terminology or specialized vocabulary to students and to their interpreters / CART Writers.
✓ Allow a few seconds between pointing to a visual aid and speaking. This gives hearing-impaired students time to look at the aid and then at the interpreter.
✓ Convey important class information, assignments, and deadlines in both verbal and written forms.
✓ Encourage students to use extended time for testing if it is one of their approved accommodations.
✓ Allow additional time for overheads or board work to be copied.

Refer to handouts on preparing for a CART Writer / Sign Language Interpreter when appropriate.