

Working with a Sign Language Interpreter

What you should know before a class with a sign language interpreter –

- The interpreter(s) will arrive early to introduce him/her self to you and answer any questions you may have.
- The interpreter(s) will negotiate placement that will allow for optimal sight lines, allowing the Deaf individual to see the presenter and interpreter at the same time.
- The interpreter(s) will need to be sure that their location has a sufficient amount of lighting. Even if lights are dimmed, the Interpreter and Deaf participant must have enough light to communicate with one another.
- You may want to briefly clarify with the interpreter any unique vocabulary, acronyms, technical jargon, etc. that you will be using during class.
- Before showing a video in class, please check to see if the media is captioned and have the captions turned on for viewing.
- Please provide the interpreter(s) with any course information as soon as it is available. This includes:
 - Access to web-based material
 - The course syllabus
 - Handouts (i.e.: PowerPoint slides, class readings, etc.)

The handouts may be submitted to (Interpreter Coordinator) this allows the interpreter(s) a chance to prepare and convey accurate information.

Communication with a Deaf student using a Sign Language Interpreter

Communicate directly with the individual who is Deaf or hard of hearing.

Interpreter(s) will convey auditory information via sign language. This auditory information includes:

- Identifying speakers
- The dialogue (what you and other students say)
- Descriptions of environmental sounds (e.g. music, alarms, cell phones ringing)

An interpreter can only accommodate one speaker at a time. Please remember to:

- Repeat student questions before answering.
- Encourage students to speak clearly, and one at a time.
- Face the class and minimize movement across a large area.

Understand the interpreter's role

The interpreter is a communication facilitator, striving to ensure that communication is accessible between Deaf and hearing people.

While working as a neutral communication facilitator, the interpreter cannot serve as a participant.