

## *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.**