



A Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH) student has enrolled in or is on the waitlist for your class. A professional Sign Language Interpreter or team of interpreters has been assigned to the classroom as an educational accommodation to facilitate communication and any multimedia shown in class must be captioned.

Tips for working with Deaf students:

- DHH students will usually require seating at the front of the classroom, with a clear line of sight of the instructor, board, and interpreter(s) to make optimum use of visual aids and cues.
- The student may have a volunteer notetaker form and may ask for a notetaker. Please assist in finding another student in class to take notes; the student will miss parts of the lecture if they are trying to watch the interpreter and write notes simultaneously.
- When communicating with DHH students through an interpreter, be sure to address the student directly. Look at the student with whom you are communicating, not the interpreter. Use of third-person phrases such as, "Ask her" or "Tell him" can compromise the relationship between the instructor and student.

Things to Remember When Working with an Interpreter:

- The interpreter's primary responsibility is to facilitate communication. Instructors should refrain from asking the interpreter to function as a teacher's aide, to participate in class activities, or to perform other tasks. Doing so may interfere with the quality of communication provided, compromise the role of the interpreter, and prevent full communication access for the student.
- Please do not ask the interpreter to censor any information as they are there to ensure the student has access to any auditory information.
- When a team of interpreters is assigned to a classroom, they will switch periodically (approx. every 15-20 minutes) to ensure continued accuracy in content delivery.

508 Compliance

- Federal and State laws mandate that all multimedia materials be accessible, specifically that all materials must be captioned **prior** to being shown.
- Please check to ensure that any YouTube videos have an "English" caption option available before showing in your class. "Automatic" captions are not acceptable as they rely on speech recognition algorithms which, often times, miss the subtle nuances of spoken language leading to egregious errors in the text.
- If you require assistance in captioning your educational materials, please contact the IMC at (661)722-6535 or help@avc.edu
- For additional information regarding captioning please go to: <https://www.avc.edu/administration/its/imc/captioning>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Harry Pleer, Coordinator - Deaf Services (Interpreter) at (661)722-6300 ext. 6204 or harry.pleer@avc.edu