



SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

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INTERPRETING SERVICES INFORMATION FOR INSTRUCTORS

The sign language interpreter facilitates communication between the deaf/hard of hearing (Deaf/HoH) and hearing students, faculty, and staff on campus through the use of sign language or oral interpretation. The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. (RID), a professional organization, has established a professional code of conduct that defines an interpreter's role. Interpreters hired by COCC are expected to adhere to this code.

Communication:

- You may feel uncomfortable about meeting and communicating with a deaf or hard of hearing person; your concerns are normal. The key for successful communication is to learn which technique or combination of techniques works best for each individual student. In the absence of an interpreter, don't hesitate to use paper and pencil for communication; it is a widely accepted method.
- There will be a few seconds "lag time" between your spoken message and its' interpretation into sign language. Therefore, if you ask a question or request a "show of hands", the hearing-impaired student will always be slightly slower to respond than the majority of students in the class.
- There are several different sign language systems which approximate English grammatical structure; as well as American Sign Language, which has a grammar and syntax very different from English. The interpreter will use the language or system which best suits the needs of the student.
- If you wish to communicate with a Deaf/HoH student, maintain eye contact and address him/her directly. If you say to the interpreter, "tell him he should..." the interpreter will sign your words exactly. However, if you say, "you should..." the interpreter will sign "you..." to the student and a direct line of communication will be established.
- The interpreter will interpret environmental noises and may at times, interpret overheard conversations before class begins.
- The interpreter is most often seated in front of the class, opposite the hearing-impaired student. Because some Deaf/HoH students lip-read you may notice a student looking at you, the speaker, as well as the interpreter. Your normal rate of speech, vocal tone, and mouth movements will provide the clearest presentation for the student. Try to avoid standing in front of a light source, such as a window. The bright background and shadow

