



CENTRAL OREGON
community college

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.
- The interpreter is most often seated in front of the class, opposite the hearing-impaired student. Because many 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 created on the face make lip-reading extremely difficult. The interpreter will try to maintain a position that will allow the student to have a view of both the speaker and the interpreter at all times.
- 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.
- 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.

- The interpreter will interpret environmental noises and may at times, interpret overheard conversations before class begins.
- 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.

Classroom Information:

- Please provide to the interpreter a copy of the class syllabus and all handouts used in the class.
- Visual aids are very helpful for Deaf/HoH students. However, when referencing written material on the board or screen, please be aware that the uses of phrases such as “this one” or “that one” have no meaning to the interpreter who is facing away from the material.
- If you plan to show a film or video, please check to see if it is captioned and inform the interpreter if captioning is available. COCC provides a captioning service for videos that are not captioned (contact eLearning@cocc.edu). If a film is not captioned and the room is to be darkened, the student must be able to clearly see the interpreter in order to access the information presented in the film.”
- Interpreters are often given a full schedule of classes. When your class is scheduled to end, the interpreter may have to leave immediately in order to arrive at the next class on time.

Role of the Interpreter:

- The interpreter is present only to facilitate communication. He/she should not be asked to run errands, tutor, proctor exams, or discuss the student’s academic or personal life.
- The interpreter will wait outside the classroom until the student arrives. In the event of a “no show”, the interpreter will wait ten minutes for every scheduled hour of class.
- The Professional Code of Conduct requires interpreters to:
 - keep all information from interpreting assignments confidential
 - interpret all information accurately and without bias
 - refrain from participating in the class in any way
 - refrain from expressing personal opinions

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

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