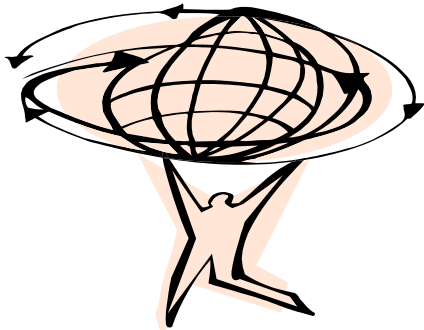


Universal Design

The goal of Universal Design is to create an accessible environment for everyone, not just people with disabilities. In the education realm, Universal Design is a proactive construction of instructional strategies, and materials that will benefit all types of learning styles, without the need for adaptation. It ensures equal access for everyone. Although proactive, Universal Design of Instruction (UDI) will not eliminate the need for all accommodations.



Universal Design of Instruction

GO FOR IT!

For example, the use of closed-captioning (CC) for all videos will not only benefit Deaf or hard of hearing students, but also English language learners and visual learners as well.

As most DVDs are now captioned, just ask Media Services to set up the captioning in your Smart classroom or PET station. You can also ask the library for captioned videos.

Additional Resources for Instructors:

Universal Design for Deaf & Hard-of-Hearing Student:

<http://www.rit.edu/~classact/>

Gallaudet University Communication Tips

<http://clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/SupportServices/series/4009.html>

Resource information collected from:

1. "Teaching Student Who Are Hard Of Hearing," NETAC Teacher Tip Sheet. Northeast Technical Assistance Center: Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY
2. "Interpreting," NETAC Teacher Tip Sheet. Northeast Technical Assistance Center: Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY
3. Universal Design for Deaf & Hard-of-Hearing Students: <http://www.rit.edu/~classact/>
4. "Code of Professional Conduct," Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. <http://www.rid.org/ethics/code/index.cfm>

The New Jersey Regional Center for Collegiate Deaf Education



Faculty Resource Materials:

Working with a Sign Language Interpreter in your classroom



Room B101
400 Paramus Road
Paramus, NJ 07652
E-mail: ccde@bergen.edu

Working With Interpreters in Your Classroom

Interpreters are:

- Professional service providers who convey spoken or auditory messages from people in a particular environment.
- Responsible for ensuring all parties can communicate with one another
- Expected to voice all that is signed and sign all that is spoken
- Bound by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Code of Professional Conduct, which is a strict code of ethics.

Interpreters DO:

- Interpret all spoken information and/or conversations for students
- Interpret for the student, the instructor, and classmates
- Interpret information faithfully
- Accept feedback from students

Interpreters DO NOT:

- Elaborate or add additional information to spoken messages
- Tutor students or help with class assignments
- Talk with instructors about student performance
- Counsel students and help with problems

Interpreters in your classroom:

Tips for instructors

- When addressing a student using an interpreter, the student may not make eye contact with you, but please speak directly to the student
- Interpreters are there for both the instructor and the student(s). Please use the service as needed and appropriate for your classroom
- Interpreters may be a resource for you to answer general questions about interpreting, sign language, and Deaf culture. Avoid asking information directly related to the student receiving the service.
- Lecture at a normal pace; there is no need to worry about going too fast for the interpreters.
- Be aware of the line of sight between the interpreter and the student (s); they need to see each other to successfully convey information.
- Keep in mind light and light sources in your classroom. If your video has no captions and your turn out the lights, communication may be severed between the student and interpreters.

Ask not what you need to do for the Interpreter but what the interpreter can do for you!



Frequently Asked Questions:

WHY are there two interpreters in my classroom?

Interpreting is physically & mentally demanding and often taxing on an interpreter. Depending on the course content and length of the class, teams of interpreters may be assigned. Interpreters will devise work shifts to ensure longevity and quality of services.

How do I know if the interpreter and student are following along in my lecture?

Interpreters are professionals and abide by a professional code of conduct. By no means will they alter your information. If there is a question or a point either the student or interpreter has missed, the interpreter will voice the question as well as identify from whom the question is being asked.

The student wants to meet with me during my office hours. How do I get an interpreter?

The student is responsible for requesting and interpreter for your meeting, however, and alternative to short inquires may be writing to each other.

I've never had a Deaf student or worked with an interpreter before, what do I have to do?

Treat the student(s) the same as any other student taking your course. Communicate with the student as you would with a student to inquire about their performance or participation in the class.