

Working With a Student Who Has a Hearing Disability

- Relax. Speak directly and normally to the student. Use all the facial expressions and gestures you would normally use.
 - The professor and other class members should always speak directly to the student with the hearing impairment and NOT the Realtime Captioner or sign language interpreter. Never say, “ask him” or “tell her” when communicating with the student who is deaf.
 - When using Realtime Captioning, the information being discussed will show up on the computer screen. There is a slight lag time between the spoken word and the message. If the Realtime Captioner gets a little behind, he/she may let you know to repeat or slow down. Also, if students in the class speak too softly, the Realtime Captioner may ask for a repeat.
 - Be particularly aware of jargon used on the job, especially initials (e.g., ASAP). ADA may mean the Americans with Disabilities Act, the American Dental Association, or “average daily attendance.” Clarify jargon.
 - When making reference to objects or written information, please allow time for the translation to take place. To aid the Realtime Captioner or interpreter, avoid using terms such as “here,” “there,” or “this one.” Better expressions are “on the second line,” “upper left hand corner,” “in the northwest quadrant,” etc.
 - The Realtime Captioners precise notes will be given to the student following class or as soon as possible with needed corrections.
 - The student, interpreters or the Realtime Captioner will work out an optimal seating/standing arrangement.
- If you are planning a movie or other audiovisual presentation, use close captioned materials, when possible. PLU’s Media Services can be helpful.
- If the Realtime Captioner or interpreters do not show up, conduct class as usual, recognizing the need of the student to have information given visually as much as possible. Assign a temporary note-taker if needed.
 - For all practical purposes, the Realtime Captioner and interpreters are inanimate objects. He or she does not pass out papers, run errands, etc. The Realtime Captioner or interpreter facilitates communication and that is all. In fact, the Realtime Captioner is bound by a code of ethics, which specifically prohibits participation in classroom discussions, etc. The Realtime Captioner may not ever express an opinion or comment on class content.
 - **The student is responsible for making classroom and academic needs known. The faculty member is responsible for assuring program accessibility.**

Anytime there are questions or concerns, please talk with the student and the Realtime Captioner or interpreters after class or in private. In addition, the Director of Disability Support Services needs to know if there is a problem. Please call us at x7206