

Sign Language Interpreter in the Classroom

What you should know before a class with a Sign Language Interpreter

- A Sign Language Interpreter uses their hands to translate spoken word into ASL for Deaf / hard of hearing (HoH) students, as well as translate ASL into spoken word.
- The interpreter(s) should arrive early to introduce him/herself to you and answer any questions you may have (long classes often require an interpreter team of 2).
- The interpreter(s) will negotiate placement that will allow for optimal sight lines, allowing the Deaf / HoH individual to see the presenter and interpreter at the same time.
- The interpreter(s) will need to be sure that their location has a sufficient amount of lighting. Even if lights are dimmed, the Interpreter and Deaf student must have enough light to communicate with one another.
- You may want to briefly clarify with the interpreter any unique vocabulary, acronyms, technical jargon, etc. that you will be using during class.

Before showing a video in class, please check to see if the media is captioned and have the captions turned on for viewing.

Please provide the interpreter(s) or SAS Office with any course materials as soon as it is available, such as any web or paper-based material (Handouts, PowerPoint slides, readings, etc.)

- The handouts should be submitted early, this allows the interpreter(s) a chance to prepare and convey accurate information in real time.

Communication with a Deaf / HoH student using a Sign Language Interpreter

- Communicate directly with the individual who is Deaf or hard of hearing.
- Interpreter(s) will convey auditory information via sign language. This auditory information includes:
 - Identifying the speaker(s)
 - Typing all dialogue (what you and other students say, no redactions)
 - Descriptions of environmental sounds (e.g. music, alarms, cell phones ringing).
- An interpreter can only accommodate one speaker at a time. Please remember to:
 - Repeat student questions before answering.
 - Encourage students to speak clearly, and one at a time.
 - Face the class and minimize movement across a large area.
- The interpreter is a communication facilitator, striving to ensure that communication is accessible between Deaf and hearing people. While working as a neutral communication facilitator, the interpreter will not serve as a participant.