



Working with Sign Language Interpreters and Cued Language Transliterators (CLTs)

Greetings from the Interpreter Services Office!

The [Interpreters Services](#) Office provides qualified Sign Language Interpreters and Cued Language Transliterators (CLT) to facilitate communication between deaf or hard of hearing students, their instructors, and fellow classmates. Communication needs and preferences are not the same for all deaf or hard of hearing individuals. [American Sign Language](#) (ASL) is a visual language – distinct from English – that uses hand shapes, fingerspelling, body language, and facial expression. Students may speak for themselves or rely on their interpreters to speak for them. [Cued Language](#) uses a set of hand shapes that represent the phonemes of English making it visible to a deaf or hard of hearing person. The student using CLT is communicating in English. Students who use a CLT may speak for themselves or rely on their CLT to speak for them.

Use the following guidelines to ensure that the interpretation process goes smoothly.

Working with Sign Language Interpreters and Cued Language Transliterators (CLTs) via Zoom

- Giving Interpreters co-hosting permissions in your Zoom meeting will allow them to seamlessly manage technical difficulties that may arise during the event.
- Please allow a student using an interpreter to multi-pin by right clicking the student's name in participants and selecting "multi-pin."

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- Speak directly to the deaf or hard of hearing student. Maintain eye-contact with him/her, not the interpreter. Avoid using third-person pronouns such as "tell him" Or "ask her."
- Speak naturally at your normal volume and pace.
- When the interpreter speaks, he/she is interpreting what the deaf student is saying and is not expressing his/her own thoughts.
- Avoid asking the interpreter for opinions or comments. The interpreter cannot engage in conversations with the teacher or any other member of class. All communication must be interpreted.

Confidentiality

In addition to FERPA, interpreters are professionals who adhere to a strict code of conduct and must keep all interpreted information confidential.



- Be aware that the interpreter may finish signing a few seconds after the speaker. Therefore, the deaf or hard of hearing student may not respond immediately after the speaker has finished addressing him/her.
- The interpreter will sit or stand near the focus of attention but may move as the speaker moves or as the focus of attention shifts.
- All receptive communication comes through the deaf student's eyes. It is essential that he/she can clearly see the interpreter. Keep this in mind when adjusting the lights when showing PowerPoint Presentations or videos. Try not to continually stand between the student and interpreter.
- Deaf or hard of hearing students cannot receive information through two channels like hearing students can. Hearing students can listen to your lecture while looking down to take notes. Deaf students must maintain eye contact with the interpreter to "hear" your lecture and therefore may find taking notes difficult and may require a note-taker.
- Provide handouts and other class materials to the interpreter as well as to the student. The interpreter is an expert in signed communication, but not necessarily an expert in your subject matter. Any additional course materials you can provide the interpreter will be helpful.
- All visual media with audio content must be captioned. This allows the deaf student to have equal access.
- If the instructor needs to speak to the student after class with the interpreter, he/she may ask the interpreter to stay. The interpreter may stay at his/her discretion depending on prior obligations or other assignments.

If you have any questions about working with an interpreter, feel free to contact [Interpreter Services](#).