

INTERPRETER FACT SHEET

- Sign Language Interpreters are trained professionals provided by De Anza College to facilitate communication between Deaf and hard-of-hearing students, faculty and staff. They relay all auditory stimuli, i.e., lecture, comments, extraneous noises such as coughing, sirens, etc..
- Interpreters render the student's signs into spoken English and the spoken word into signed communication.
- As professionals, Interpreters are bound by a Code of Ethics requiring them to keep all information confidential.

Interpreters need to focus on their work and should not be asked to:

- **Take notes or pass-out papers.**
 - **Participate in class discussions or activities.**
 - **Attend class when the student is absent.**
 - **Answer questions regarding the deaf student.**
 - **Act as test proctors.**
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- Because of the specific nature of the interpreter's role, it is important not to ask the interpreter for his/her opinion, or to perform any tasks other than interpreting.
 - Interpreters normally will position themselves near the instructor. This allows the student to keep visual contact with the instructor to aid in understanding.
 - Speak directly to the student. Since the interpreter is in the classroom to facilitate communication for both the student and instructor, speak directly to and maintain communication with the student. Avoid speaking in the third person; phrases such as "ask her" or "tell him" can be confusing.
 - Interpreters need advance notice for any activities occurring outside the classroom even if the activities take place during class time.

Any questions or comments, please contact Deaf Services at deafservices@deanza.edu.