

Classroom Suggestions

- Allow student to sit where there is a direct line of vision to the instructor and no glare or shadows. Avoid standing in areas with brightly lit backgrounds.
- If possible, reduce background noise. Turn off projectors and other equipment when not in use.
- Speak directly to the student even if there is an interpreter. Hearing impaired students can feel ignored or isolated due to their disability. Address them as you would any other student in the class.
- Provide a clear view of your mouth at all times. Waving your hands or holding something in front of your face can cause difficulty for lip readers. Always speak clearly and distinctly at a normal pace. Use normal tone unless you are asked to raise your voice. Shouting is of no help.
- Lecture facing the class. When writing on the blackboard, write information first and then, turn toward the class to give an explanation.

- Repeat any questions asked by students during classroom sessions. This will assist the student's ability to lip read and /or receive accurate remote transcription.
- Ask the student to repeat if you have difficulty understanding his/her comments. If necessary, use pen and paper. Inquire privately throughout the semester as to whether the student is having difficulty getting the information presented in class. E-mail is the preferred form of communication.

Faculty Responsibility

Faculty members are responsible for insuring that students with hearing impairments have equal access to information. This includes closed caption/video text display of audio materials used in websites, e-text, curriculum or classroom presentations.

**For further information or assistance, please contact:
Disability Services
C-218
(734) 384-4167**

Hearing Impairments

**Monroe County
Community College
1555 S. Raisinville Rd.
Monroe, Michigan 48161**

Hearing Impairments

Any alteration of hearing capacity is considered a hearing impairment. A hearing impairment is a temporary or permanent loss of hearing. The degree of hearing impairment can vary. It can involve mild, moderate, severe, profound, or total hearing loss. Hearing impairments are typically categorized by loss of hearing sensitivity and/or can refer to the loss of individual pitches of sound. Hearing impairments may be present at birth or acquired later in life. Hearing impairments greatly interfere with normal language, speech development, and comprehension which can greatly impact academic performance.

Definition

- **Deafness** is an impairment in hearing that can be permanent or fluctuating.
- **Partial Hearing** is an impairment in which the student cannot perceive sound as well as the average person, but has sufficient hearing to use auditory-based methods of communication.

Common Myths

- Everyone with a hearing impairment uses sign language or reads lips.
- All forms of hearing loss can be solved by use of hearing aids or Cochlear Implants.
- A lack of hearing correlates to a lack of intelligence.
- All deaf people want to be hearing.
- Most deaf persons have deaf parents.

Common Characteristics

- Most hearing losses are present at birth. However, persons can lose hearing because of a disease or accident later in life.
- Hearing impaired students often employ one or more visual methods or symbol systems for communication.
- Persons with hearing loss miss some of the informal conversation and discussions in a classroom setting. Group work can be difficult.

Auxiliary Aids

The following services are coordinated through the Disability Services Office to assist students with hearing impairments.

- **Interpreters**
Sign language interpreters who are present in the classroom and use sign language to interpret what the instructor and others are saying during class.
- **Remote Transcription**
The instructor wears a wireless microphone that is connected to an off-site transcriptionist. The student is able to read the lecture in real time.
- **FM Amplifying Systems**
The instructor wears an amplifying microphone directly connected to students hearing device to enhance the instructor's voice and block out background noise.
- **Note takers**
Qualified students hired to provide a copy of classroom notes.
- **Assistive Telephone Services (TTD)** For information contact:
Michigan Relay
1(800) 649-3777 or 7-1-1
michiganrelay.com/rep.htm
Ohio Relay
1(800) 750-0750 or 7-1-1
Ohio.relay.com