

DE ANZA COLLEGE DEAF SERVICES

REAL TIME CAPTIONING-FOR DEAF/HARD-OF-HEARING STUDENTS

What is real time captioning?

Real time captioning is a method to assist deaf and hard-of-hearing students to acquire information. As used in court reporting methods, real time captioning involves using a highly sophisticated symbolic system. A trained captioner translates the spoken word in real time (simultaneously) on to a laptop screen. A real time captioner provides this service either in the classroom or from a remote location.

How does real time captioning Work?

The captioner is a professional and has their own equipment. He/she will need only a desk surface next to the deaf/hard –of-hearing student so that the screen can be read. In addition, the captioner will need to plug the equipment into an electrical outlet. The captioner’s sole responsibility is to provide captioning services in the class. He/she will not tutor or speak for the student. The hard-of-hearing student should be addressed directly. The captioner and the student can use the equipment as a communication aid. The instructor will not be required to do anything different from his normal instruction to the class.

Why would a student need this?

Hard-of-hearing students, who rely only on speech reading and their residual hearing, often miss a great deal of the information transmitted in the classroom. Many students do not know sign language well enough to work with a sign language interpreter effectively, or prefer to get their information in English rather than American Sign Language. With real time captioning, the student is able to access the information conveyed by the instructor or the other students in class immediately.

What else can we do to help?

- Use as many visual aids as possible. Deaf and hard-of-hearing students often benefit from additional assistance with vocabulary and terminology, particularly if these are new or specific to the discipline.
- Since the translation and text display are usually one to four seconds behind the speaker, it may take the student who is deaf or hard-of-hearing a few seconds longer to respond. Try to limit the class discussion to one person speaking at a time, so all students have the opportunity to participate.
- Provide the student feedback on their performance so additional help can be arranged early, if necessary
- **For more information, you may access our De Anza college Students with Disabilities Faculty and Staff Resource Guide at:**
www.deanza.edu/specialed/pdf/disabilities.pdf