Supporting the success of online students who are deaf

One social justice victory of online education is the ability to expand access to higher education and serve a diverse student body. This roundtable discussion will give instructors and administrators the chance to share strategies and tools for supporting the success of students who are deaf.

Thursday, April 13, 2017, 4:30-5:15pm (Concurrent Sessions 8)

What’s in this for you?

- Share concrete tools and resources that can support online students who are deaf
- Share strategies for inclusive lesson planning and instructional design
- Identify areas where schools of social work can better prepare to support students who are deaf

Share tools & resources
Share strategies & experiences
Ask questions
| Synchronous class sessions: | • Live captioner  
  • Columbia University’s Office of Disability Services uses the National Captioning Institute. The software they use is Recap’d.  
  • Captioner must be scheduled to arrive early & stay after, to support all pre- and post-class interaction  
  • For small-group breakout activities, the live captioner must be moved to the correct group  
  • Make sure captioner is aware of holidays or class cancellations  
  • In case of no-show, have contact info on hand for an emergency captioner to be deployed  
  • In case of mid-class issues, create back-up plans to manage them  
  • If you have an associate or teaching assistant, collaborate on back-up plans, including the associate’s comfort level to step in for an absent captioner |
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| Media assigned as homework: | • Make sure all videos, podcasts, etc. are captioned; this can take 3-4 weeks  
  • Many media pieces come with captions; make sure their captions meet equal access standards or get new captions done  
  • Columbia University’s School of Professional Studies uses 3Play Media  
  • If no resources for captioning, or short time-frame, choose media that comes with captions  
  • Computer-generated captions do not meet standards for accommodations  
  • For videos, transcripts do not meet standards for accommodations |
| Student-generated media: | These may include videos in which students introduce themselves, or media assignments.  
  • If every student creates a video, every video must be captioned quickly. Columbia aims for within 48 hours.  
  • If the student cannot participate, change the assignment |
| Student role plays: | These may include formal role play assignments with actors or student-recorded role plays as homework.  
  • Schedule a live captioner, and prepare the captioner with any needed info regarding the assignment  
  • In case of captioner no-show, have contact info on hand for an emergency captioner to be deployed  
  • In case of student no-show, have contact info on hand to alert captioner and reschedule  
  • Dialogue with the role play partner to make sure everyone is prepared |
| Inclusive lesson-planning: | • Dialogue with the student without putting too much pressure on them  
  • If you have an associate, teaching assistant, or technical support, work to make the team inclusive  
  • Create a strong timeline in advance, so that media captioning and live captioners can be scheduled |
| Coordinating communications: | The University Office of Disability Services, School Disability Services Liaison, Instructors, Teaching Assistants, Technical Support Staff, Advising, Student Services, and Administration must communicate. |
| Student life: | • Announce all student events with enough notice to schedule a captioner if needed. Columbia’s Office of Disability Services requires two weeks’ notice.  
  • For any events that are recorded, caption the recordings. |