
KERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

CLASS TITLE: SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER I

BASIC FUNCTION:

Under the direction of an assigned supervisor, provide sign language interpreter services to students who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have other communication disorders primarily for instructional classes involving standard complexity; may tutor students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Three Class titles are defined within the Interpreter series. Movement to a higher class and/or skill level within the Interpreter series is based on the duties, skills, education, training, certifications, and experience of the incumbent. Interpreters possessing higher levels of skills typically are assigned more complex and advanced level interpreting assignments.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

Under general supervision, the Interpreter I provides interpreting services to facilitate communication most often in a classroom or related instructional settings and activities. Assignments may involve technical or specialized subject matter and vocabulary. Individual assignments may vary based on the specific skills of the interpreter and the needs of students or other consumers. Specific complexity and skill factors include:

- Type of interpreting or communication system needed;
- Difficulty or unique nature of the subject matter and vocabulary;
- Speed of interpreting required; and,
- Number of Deaf and/or Hard-of-Hearing consumers served simultaneously

REPRESENTATIVE DUTIES:

Interpret and translate classroom lectures simultaneously and facilitate communication between deaf and hard-of-hearing students and hearing faculty, staff, and students as related to coursework.

Accurately convey the meaning and spirit of the hearing speaker using American Sign Language and accurately convey verbally the meaning and spirit of the deaf or hard of hearing signer using correct English grammar.

Utilize resources to increase knowledge of American Sign Language, appropriate interpreting procedures, Deaf Culture, specialized vocabulary, and the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Code of Professional Conduct.

Observe and team with other interpreters, and receive mentorship from higher level interpreters and/or the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Coordinator.

Respond to student difficulties and concerns with understanding and sensitivity.

Attend and participate in workshops and conferences to improve and maintain interpreting skill level, and keep abreast of interpreting trends by studying specialized ASL vocabulary and other materials.

May read text, handouts, and dictionaries, and prepare translation of difficult-to-interpret course content.

Work in collaboration with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Coordinator and other Sign Language Interpreters to collect existing technical signs, and to establish special signs and/or vocabulary for underrepresented scientific/technical terms or concepts.

May proctor exams as necessary.

May answer telephones; take and relay messages; provide information and assistance to students; refer students to appropriate personnel.

Perform related duties as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES:

KNOWLEDGE OF:

American Sign Language and interpreting Techniques.

Appropriate roles and individual responsibilities relating to interpreting for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons.

Deaf cultural values and general issues in the field of deafness.

Interpersonal skills using tact, patience, and courtesy.

Resources available to Sign Language Interpreters and Transliterators in order to improve knowledge and skills.

Effective oral communication.

Modern office practices and procedures.

ABILITY TO:

Establish and maintain effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

Interpret and transliterate messages spoken by hearing people into American Sign Language.

Interpret messages signed by deaf and hard of hearing people into English.

Interpret moderately technical academic material utilizing moderately proficient English and/or American Sign Language (ASL), used in classes as business, mathematics, and upper level English, on District's skills performance evaluation examination.

Adhere to the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Code of Professional Conduct.

Assess individual situations to determine the needs of each deaf or hard-of-hearing student, such as language preferences or preferences in having comments voiced for him/her or voicing for himself/herself.

Attend and participate in various workshops in order to improve interpreting/transliterating skill.

Communicate effectively with faculty, staff, and students with disabilities.

Learn a variety of routine reception and clerical procedures.

Learn to use the variety of assistive devices/equipment used to assist students with disabilities.

Work successfully in an interpreting team in the classroom or other campus setting.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

Any combination equivalent to: Graduation from an Interpreter Training Program (ITP) or equivalent or Associate of Art's Degree in American Sign Language, Interpreting, or a related field and one (1) academic year of paid experience interpreting for the Deaf and hard of hearing utilizing both receptive and expressive interpreting.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT:

Successful completion of an interpreting evaluation is required.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

ENVIRONMENT:

Classroom or office environment.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

Incorporated within one or more of the previously mentioned essential functions of this job description are essential physical requirements. The chart below indicates the percentage of time spent on each of the following essential physical requirements:

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|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Seldom = Less than 25 percent | 3. Often = 51-75 percent |
| 2. Occasional = 25-50 percent | 4. Very Frequent = 76 percent and above |
- a. 3 Ability to work at a desk, conference table or in meetings of various configurations.
 - b. 2 Ability to stand for extended periods of time.
 - c. 4 Ability to sit for extended periods of time.
 - d. 4 Ability to see for purposes of reading printed matter.
 - e. 4 Ability to hear and understand speech at normal levels.
 - f. 4 Ability to communicate so others will be able to clearly understand a normal conversation.
 - g. 3 Ability to bend and twist.
 - h. 1 Ability to lift 10 lbs.
 - i. 1 Ability to carry 10 lbs.

- j. 2 Ability to operate office equipment.
- k. 4 Ability to reach in all directions.