POSITION DESCRIPTION: Sign Language Interpreter
CODE: 04840 (Non-competitive)
DATE: R 12/15/00

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Employees in this title provide various interpretation services for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. These employees facilitate communication between spoken and signed languages for and between deaf or hard of hearing students and faculty, staff, and other students. Employees in this title interpret a broad range of content areas covered in the liberal arts, technical, and other curricula offered by the various CUNY colleges. Employees may perform other related duties, and on occasion may provide similar services to college employees. The following are typical assignments in the two levels of this title, and are conducted in spoken English and/or American Sign Language.

EXAMPLES OF TYPICAL TASKS

LEVEL I:

Interprets from spoken language to signed or visual language; also, interprets in the reverse direction.

Facilitates communication in classroom settings that require routine interaction between student and teacher, e.g. lecture hall, basic or core courses, minor courses, etc.

Facilitates communication in classroom settings that deal with predictable levels of subject matter complexity, e.g. orientation meetings, remedial courses, basic or core courses, minor and major courses, etc.

Interprets in group sessions such as laboratory, tutorial, seminar, and the like.

Facilitates communications in group sessions where there are varying ratios of deaf/hard of hearing students to hearing participants.
Interprets for one student; for several students; for several students each using a different communication modality.

**EXAMPLES OF TYPICAL TASKS**

**LEVEL II:**

In addition to performing those tasks indicated in Level I examples (above), persons in Level II will be assigned to tasks involving more complex services such as, but not limited to, the tasks immediately following:

Interprets in individual sessions where confidentiality and discretion are necessary such as teacher/student conferences, academic advisement, registration & admission activities, financial aid applications, and similar.

Interprets in activities involving public platform communications such as college-wide assemblies, student presentations, guest speakers and performers, academic conferences, campus events of a cultural, business, and political nature, and the like.

Facilitates communication in classroom or academic settings that deal with unpredictable levels of subject matter complexity or that require specialized or complicated interaction between student and teacher, e.g. majors courses, honors courses, colloquia, symposia, and similar.

Interprets in situations requiring inordinate complexity and precision of language such as senior levels of mathematics, upper branches of physical science, poetry, etc.

Interprets in classroom settings where there is rapid and frequent interaction, interruption, contradiction, and alternation of speakers and languages.

Interprets in classroom settings for multiple, varying numbers of hearing-impaired students and/or hearing persons with varying language modalities.

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

**Level I:**

1. All persons must possess the high school diploma, or equivalent, and must have fluency in both English and American Sign Language; ALSO

2. All persons must have successfully completed a Basic Interpreter Training Program at a recognized institution, or have passed the Interpreter Examination administered by New York State Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities, or equivalent.
Level II:

1. All persons must meet the Qualification Requirements for Level I (above). In addition, persons must be in possession of a certificate of proficiency issued by the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) (www.rid.org); or a certification of proficiency issued by the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) (www.nad.org).

Persons will be placed in various work assignments depending upon the needs of service and their level of demonstrated competence. Persons who have attained the baccalaureate degree may be placed in work assignments of a more complex nature.

**Lines of Promotion**

**From:** None  **To:** None