

FAQs

Is American Sign Language (ASL) the same as English?

ASL is independent from English and other spoken languages, and has its own grammar rules, syntax, and lexicon. ASL is one of the more than 330 signed languages in the world.

How does interpreting between ASL and English work?

ASL and English are distinct languages. Interpreting is not a word-to-word translation and requires an understanding of concepts and vocabulary for both languages. If interpreters do not know the meaning of an English word, they cannot simply fingerspell the word. They need to seek clarification about the meaning of the word in order to accurately interpret the concept.

Do interpreters adhere to confidentiality?

Interpreters adhere to the [Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Code of Professional Conduct \(CPC\)](#). The key tenet of the CPC is confidentiality. Interpreters cannot share private information about clients, students, professors, or anyone with whom they work.

How can I support Deaf/Hard of Hearing/DeafBlind individuals?

Check in with the Deaf consumer/student before and after the event. Ask the consumer/student about any interpreting, linguistic, and/or cultural preferences. Note that just because an individual is an interpreter, does not mean they are the best fit for all Deaf consumers. It is considered a best practice to consult with the consumer and accommodate identified needs as practicable.

Can I still use embedded videos or other a/v in my presentation or event?

Yes absolutely! Please ensure that all videos have **accurate captioning** and ensure captions are enabled before playing videos during class. If you are teaching a course and need support with captioning your media, please apply for a [captioning grant](#) through [OIT](#) (go.ncsu.edu/captioning-grant-application).

How can I learn more?

Go to [NC State's website](#) (go.ncsu.edu/deaf-services) for more information or contact [Taylor Ofori](#) at tofori@ncsu.edu with any questions.