

Sample Deaf Student Interview Questions



NDC
National Deaf Center
on Postsecondary Outcomes

Background on Disability

- How long have you been deaf?
- When was your most recent audiogram?
- How do you identify yourself (D/deaf, hard-of-hearing, late deafened, deafblind, etc.)?
- Do you have any additional disabilities we need to be aware of?

Communication and Social Skills

- How do you communicate and/or access information...
 - ...at home?
 - ...at school?
 - ...with friends?
 - ...in the community?
- In what environments is it difficult for you to understand other people?
- How do you prefer to communicate when talking one-on-one with an instructor?
- How do you prefer to communicate in the classroom?
- What helps you understand what the instructor is saying?
- How do you communicate in a small-group setting like a discussion group?

Technology and Personal Devices

- Do you have a hearing aid? How many years have you used it? Does it have boots, shoes or attachments?
- Do you have a cochlear implant? Have you had it configured for use with a listening device?
- Have you used an assistive listening device like an FM system?
- What are your experiences using these types of technology (benefits, use in different environments)?
- Some classrooms are small and don't have a built-in wired system. Do you have experience giving a transmitter and microphone to an instructor before each class?
- What other accommodations do you use at home (bed-shaker alarm, signal lights and alert systems, etc.)?

Sample Deaf Student Interview Questions

Education Background

- What kind of school did you attend in the past—mainstream or public school, school for the deaf, or other type of school environment?
- What type of accommodations or services did you use in high school or your most recent educational experience and were they effective?

Accommodations Requested

- What accommodations have worked for you in the past and why?
- (For non-ASL users) What kinds of services help you to understand what is being said during lectures?

Interpreting

- Have you used interpreters in the past? If so, what has been your experience?
- Have you worked with a certified deaf interpreter (CDI) or deaf interpreter (DI) before?
- Do you prefer that interpreters use signing only, signing in English word order, or no signing but mouthing and gestures to lip read?
- Do you usually speak for yourself or do you prefer the interpreter to voice for you?
- Do you prefer working with an on-site interpreter or a remote interpreter (someone physically in the classroom interpreting the lecture versus an off-campus interpreter you connect with on a laptop or tablet)?
- Are you willing to use remote interpreters? When would remote interpreters be an appropriate option for you?
- Do you have your own laptop or tablet device that can be used for remote services?
- If on site, where do you prefer the interpreters to sit for visual access? For example, when the teacher is lecturing, do you look at the teacher, interpreter, or both? Is it helpful when the interpreter sits directly in front of you?

Speech-to-Text

- Have you used speech-to-text services?
- If so, what type—CART (verbatim) or C-Print or TypeWell (meaning for meaning)?
- If not, would you feel comfortable watching a laptop screen to read the lecture rather than listening and lip-reading the instructor?
- Do you prefer working with an on-site provider or a remote provider (someone physically in the classroom transcribing the lecture versus an off-campus provider transcribing the lecture)?

Sample Deaf Student Interview Questions

- Are you willing to use remote services? When would remote services be an appropriate option for you?
- Do you have your own laptop or tablet device that can be used for remote services?

Note Taking

- What is your experience with taking notes?
- Have you taken notes for a long lecture class when the instructor does not stop to be sure everyone has written the information?
- When you look away, do you miss bits of information?

Captioning on Videos

- Is it hard to keep up with the spoken dialogue in videos, no matter how high you turn up the volume?
- Do you use closed captions at home on your TV?
- Do you use captions when you watch online videos?

Testing

- Are you distracted by environmental noise in the classroom while you take a test?
- Is it difficult to read test questions and understand their meaning? Do you feel like you understood the material, but when you took the test you did not do well?
- Did you use the resources room in high school to take tests in a quiet location?
- Did anyone help you by explaining what some of the questions meant?



This document was developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, OSEP #HD326D160001. However, the contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the federal government.

www.nationaldeafcenter.org

