TIPS FOR WORKING WITH DEAF & HARD OF HEARING STUDENTS

DO speak clearly and directly to the student. Be aware of the student and try to face him/her when speaking, without distractions near the face or mouth.

DO repeat a sentence exactly. If still not understood, then choose alternative phrases to express your thoughts.

DO provide preferential seating if requested.

DO monitor environmental noise, if possible.

DO monitor environmental light. Be aware of environmental issues, such as not standing in front of a window. Standing in front of a light source makes it difficult to speech read, pick up visual cues, etc.

DO point out who is talking. Ask students to raise their hands so that the student who is deaf or hard of hearing is always aware of who is speaking.

DO repeat questions/comments from the class.

DO be familiar with Assistive Listening Devices. Pacing around the room while lecturing may cause interference.

DO make sure that all videos shown in class or assigned as homework are captioned.

DO discuss communication access with the student.

DON’T turn away from the person’s view when speaking.

DON’T over-exaggerate your speech.

DON’T attempt to talk over loud environmental noise: wait for the noise to stop or move to a quieter location.

DON’T speak while writing on the board with your back to the student.

DON’T shout when speaking.

DON’T speak with objects in or in front of your mouth.

DON’T pace around the room while lecturing.

DON’T assume that the student is aware of all the available support services. Refer the student to the Disability Resource Center if needed.

Boise State University
Disability Resource Center
(208) 426-1583, drcinfo@boisestate.edu