

San Diego Community College District

CLASSIFICATION DESCRIPTION

Title: Sign Language Interpreter, Senior

Unit: Office Technical

Page: 1 of 3
Job Code: J2180
Original Date: 04/2002
Last Revision: 04/2002
Staff Type: Classified
FLSA status: Non-exempt
Salary Range: 24

DEFINITION

Under the direction of the Interpreting Services Supervisor, interpret for deaf and hard-of-hearing students, faculty, and staff, educational and general information exchanged in or related to an educational setting by using manual and oral methods of communication and perform related duties.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

The class of Senior Sign Language Interpreter is the most advanced/highest level of the sign language interpreter series, requiring possession of a nationally recognized skill certification and greater degree of technical knowledge and practical experience. Incumbents are responsible for proficiently interpreting highly advanced and difficult subject matter, such as courses involving specialized terminology, complex use of language, and/or difficult abstract concepts, by conveying the full meaning of the message, achieving and delivering conceptually accurate higher-level academic material in a fast paced environment. The class of Sign Language Interpreter does not require a national certificate but does require certification of skills necessary to meet generally accepted interpreting competency and demonstrate minimum competency needed to meet generally accepted interpreter standards.

EXAMPLE OF DUTIES

1. Interpret or transliterate educational and general information in the classroom and/or related activities including meetings, guidance sessions and tutoring sessions. Interpret or transliterate lectures and discussions simultaneously from English to the deaf and/or hard-of-hearing consumer's preferred mode of communication (such as American Sign Language, PSE or speech-reading) and from the visual mode to English using manual and oral means of communication.
2. Maintain knowledge of, and use extensive sign vocabulary as well as develop new signs as needed in order to interpret accurately in real time for such classes as literature, philosophy, and the sciences, with minimal preparation.
3. Communicates with instructors explaining the role of the sign language interpreter in the classroom.
4. Continually assesses a student's communications skills in speech, lip-reading, signs, and finger spelling in order to utilize the most appropriate communication methods based on the student's needs and preferences.
5. May perform a variety of administrative duties related to the effective operation of the Interpreting Services Office, such as accepting telephone calls, disseminating information, processing correspondence and records, and maintaining files and materials.
6. Perform related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge:

- American Sign Language, including special signs used in the educational field.
- Familiarity with various subject matter taught by community colleges.
- Role of interpreter in an educational setting, including proper ethical conduct.
- Values, behaviors, and language of the American Deaf Culture.

Sufficient sign vocabulary to ensure proper interpretation in the various academic or vocational subject matter(s).
Technical aspects of field of specialty.
Standard methods of manual communication for the deaf and hard-of-hearing including American Sign Language, signed English, finger spelling and non manual expression including facial, eye, and body language.
Common Post-Secondary educational processes and procedures.
Current developments, trends, and techniques in the field of interpreting for both the deaf and hard-of-hearing as utilized by the deaf community.
R.I.D. Code of Ethics.
Basic requirements of ADA (*Americans with Disabilities Act*) and student services programs.
English usage, grammar, spelling, punctuation, and vocabulary.
Oral and written communications skills.
Basic record keeping procedures.
Basic knowledge of computer applications, and hardware.

Skills and Abilities:

Research and/or develop new signs for new technology, science, industry and education.
Demonstrate a high proficiency in both voice-to-sign and sign-to-voice interpreting skills.
Convey the thought, intent, and spirit while interpreting expressively, and/or receptively.
Utilize sufficient sign vocabulary to ensure proper interpretation in the various academic or vocational subject matter(s).
Interpreting/transliterating expressively and receptively, using manual and oral methods of communication for the deaf and hard-of-hearing.
Analyze situations accurately and adopt an effective course of action.
Relate effectively in a multilingual/multicultural environment.
Communicate effectively with others.
Understand and follow oral and written directions.
Work independently with little direction.
Establish and maintain effective relationships with deaf and hard-of-hearing students, as well as with faculty and staff.
Observe the progress of a student and adapt or modify methods of communication as needed.
Maintains the confidentiality of information exchanged in an interpreting situation.
Meet schedules and time lines.
Plan and organize work.
Maintain records and prepare reports.

Training and Experience:

Any combination of training and experience equivalent to: three or more years of paid interpreting experience. Graduation from high school or its equivalent and completion of an American Sign Language Interpreting program of at least 30 units or its equivalent. One year of interpreting in an educational setting and a Bachelor's degree are desirable.

License:

One or more of the following is required:

- Certificate of Interpretation (CI) from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID);
- Certificate of Transliteration (CT) from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID);
- Comprehensive Skills Certificate (CSC) from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID);
- Level IV certification from the National Association of the Deaf (NAD).

Preferred:

Level V certificated from the National Association of the Deaf (NAD).

WORKING CONDITIONS

Physical Requirements:
 Category III

Environment:
 Favorable, usually involves a classroom or an office. Occasional travel from site to site.

Evaluation/certification equivalencies for Sign Language Interpreter classifications

Sign Language Interpreter (& Lead) Minimum Qualifications	Senior Sign Language Interpreter	
	Minimum Qualifications	Preferred Qualifications
SDCCD Level 2 evaluation or NAD Level 3 (full)	SDCCD Level 4 or RID CI or RID CT or NAD Level 4	SDCCD Level 5 or RID CI & CT or RID CSC or NAD Level 5