

Teacher Tips

Instructors when speaking will need to:

- Speak normally without over-enunciating or speaking loudly unless the circumstances require it. If they tend to speak quickly, try to moderate their pace.
- Re-phrase a word or sentence if not understood the first time, rather than repeating the sentence.
- Avoid unnecessary movement so that their face is visible to the student. When writing on a chalkboard, turn to face the class when speaking.
- Use a neutral background. Avoid a window or bright light; the glare may obstruct their face.
- Turn off the overhead projector when not in use; its hum can be distracting for hard of hearing students.
- Avoid communication when the student is moving as facial visibility may be reduced and background sounds may be distracting.
- Repeat questions or statements from other students.

When using materials they'll need to:

- Provide in advance, as much as possible, a copy of the material to be covered and a list of highly technical words and unfamiliar proper names.
- Reinforce their verbal presentation with written text as much as possible, and provide in writing such vital information as the due date for an assignment or change in class schedule.
- Face the student rather than the instrument/ equipment when explaining its operation. This applies particularly to laboratory situations. When this is not possible, consider use of a mirror so their face is visible.
- Try to avoid referring to a class handout while lecturing, since it is difficult for the hard of hearing or deaf student to focus on both the instructor and the handout at the same time.
- Allow for a few moments when referring to manuals, texts or other materials so that the student has time to shift to the material.