

## Michigan Relay Center

1-800-649-3777

The Center enables hearing persons to communicate by phone with people who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, or speech impaired.

To use the relay system, the person who is hearing impaired must have a device called a TTY or TDD. Hearing persons call the 800 number and tell the representative the telephone number and the name of the person they are calling. The hearing person speaks directly to the hearing impaired person through an MRC representative, who types the information and sends it to the hearing impaired person. Their responses are then relayed to the hearing person via the representative.

All calls are confidential and can be made anytime or day of the week.

Calls placed through the Center, whether local, zone or long distance are billed as if you had dialed the person directly.

**All services for students with special needs** are coordinated through the Learning Assistance Laboratory (LAL) located on the second floor, room 218 of the Campbell Learning Resources Center.

**Our staff** is ready to work with you to maximize student success and minimize instructor frustration.

**For further information** and assistance call Dr. Cindy Riedel, (734) 242-7300, extension 4164.

Monroe County Community College is an equal no qualified person shall be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin or ancestry, age, sex, marital status, or disability in any program or activity for which it is responsible.



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#3066 - Rev. 1/99

Helping  
Students  
with

HEARING ◀  
IMPAIRMENTS ◀

SUCCEED

at Monroe ◀  
County ◀  
Community ◀  
College ◀

Learning  
Assistance  
Laboratory

# HEARING IMPAIRMENTS

## Definition

**Deafness** – the person perceives sounds (including speech) in a way that has little or no meaning for ordinary life purposes.

**Partial Hearing** – the person who perceives sound less well than the average person but has sufficient hearing to use auditorial-based methods of communication, sometimes with visual supplements.

## Common Characteristics of College Students with Hearing Impairments

- Most losses are present at birth, but some people lose hearing because of disease or accidents.
- Most deaf persons employ one or more visual methods and symbol systems for communication.
- In group situations, those individuals with a hearing loss may miss some of the informal conversation or discussion in classrooms.
- Two common fallacies concerning deaf persons are that they read lips well and that they read well. Neither is true.

**Auxiliary Aids** to aid hearing impaired students may include any of the following devices based on the level of hearing loss and experience using such devices:

- ✦ interpreters
- ✦ notetakers/transcriptionists
- ✦ FM amplifying systems
- ✦ closed caption decoders/video text displays
- ✦ assistive telephone equipment including TDD.

## Suggestions for Helping Students with Hearing Impairments to Succeed in the College Classroom

1. Suggest a seat that provides the student with a direct line of vision to the instructor and without glare or shadows.
2. Provide a clear view of your mouth. Waving your hands or holding something in front of your lips, makes lip reading nearly impossible.
3. Check in a discreet way, to be certain that the sound is being transmitted comfortably.
4. Rephrase ideas, thoughts or sentences, but don't repeat them.
5. Use natural gestures to convey the meaning of concepts or abstract ideas.
6. Speak clearly and distinctly, but don't exaggerate.
7. Use a normal tone unless you are asked to raise your voice. Shouting will be of no help.
8. Learn not to lecture while your back is turned or while writing on the chalkboard.
9. Ask the student to repeat if you are having difficulty understanding. If that doesn't work, then use paper and pen.
10. Encourage the student to tape record the class proceedings.

## Faculty Responsibility

Faculty members bear the responsibility for insuring that students with hearing impairments have equal access to the information presented in their classroom.