

## **SIGN-LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS**

Interpreting services are contracted through the Connecticut Commission on the Deaf and Hearing-Impaired (CDHI). Other agencies may be called to provide interpreting services when CDHI is unable to provide them. The shortage of certified sign-language interpreters in the State poses a serious concern in ensuring the availability of this support for deaf students. For this reason, students who use interpreters are eligible for early registration. As soon as students register for class, they should give the DRC a copy of their schedule of classes so that the process of securing interpreting services can begin. Switching of sections or making other schedule changes may cause delays in ensuring the availability of interpreters. Inform the DRC promptly of any course schedule adjustments so there is sufficient lead time to accommodate the request.

In addition to the provision of sign-language interpreters, deaf and hard of hearing students are eligible to receive note-taking assistance. A volunteer or paid student notetaker is recruited to attend each class session. For further information, see the section below on Academic Assistants.

### ***Cancellation of Interpreter Services***

When students know in advance that they will miss class, it is their responsibility to call the cancellation number at CDHI (860-566-7414) between 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM. CDHI requires that there be at least 48 hours notice of cancellation. If students do not cancel prior to the 48 hour cancellation notice, Southern is still obligated to pay for the interpreting service.

### ***Late Arrival or Failure to Attend Class***

Students who arrive late to class cannot expect their interpreters or notetaker to remain in class after a waiting period of fifteen minutes. Students who are absent from class are not entitled to notes unless they have received prior approval from a DRC Specialist. Students who miss two scheduled classes without canceling interpreting services are required to meet with DRC staff to discuss continuation of this service.

### ***Absence of Interpreters***

At the start of the semester, students should discuss with their instructors and notetaker an alternate plan in the event that the interpreter does not show up for class. Students who can demonstrate that remaining in a class would not be beneficial without an interpreter, may be permitted to leave; however, their notetaker should stay to take notes for them.

### ***Working with Interpreters***

Students who experience difficulties working with interpreters are encouraged to make an appointment with a DRC staff member to discuss their concerns.