

General information about working with a Sign Language interpreter at SMU

- All interpreters working in the Faculty of Science are professionals with active membership in good standing with the only national association for ASL-English interpreters: Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada (AVLIC)
- Members of AVLIC are bound to a comprehensive Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Professional Conduct. Concerns of an interpreter's professional conduct can be brought forward to the AVLIC Professional Conduct Review Process.
- Interpreters will interpret everything that is said in the interaction. If you don't want something you've said interpreted, do not say it in the presence of the interpreter.
- Interpreters will not participate in the event or conversation. Please do not directly engage the interpreter(s) while they are working. If you have comments, questions, or feedback for the interpreter(s) please wait until the event is finished and then bring it to their attention.
- Everything you hear is the interpretation of what was signed, and vice versa.
- Speak directly to Deaf person and not ask the interpreter to "tell him/her, ask him/her, etc."
- Look at the Deaf person directly as you would with anyone you are speaking with; try not to look at the interpreter. The Deaf person will look at the interpreter and speaker to see the interpretation as well as gauging the speaker's demeanor.
- You do not need to slow down your speech, or break it into chunks; speak normally. The interpreters do not transliterate (a word for word representation from one language to another), rather interprets the intent of the concepts in the source language into a different grammatical structure of the target language. This process takes a brief processing time while simultaneously interpreting the conversation. You may initially notice a slight pause in between speakers.
- Lighting and unobstructed sight lines are important for a visual language. Please cooperate with the Deaf person(s) and interpreter(s) to make your conversation as seamless as possible by providing adequate non-glaring lighting and seating arrangements.