

Vocational Services for Individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Course Description

This video-based course will provide you with an overview of vocational services for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, with an emphasis on vocational evaluation and psychometric testing. Other services discussed include vocational placement, employment and job seeking skills training, supported employment, and occupational communication specialists. The goal of the course is to increase your familiarity with the range of services available to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and enable you to make appropriate referrals or increase your ability to provide these services effectively to this population. You will apply what you learned through written discussions and activities.

Objectives

After this course, you will be able to:

- Identify various employment services and how they can be most effective when provided for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Analyze accessibility for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Understand concerns with psychometric tests when used with people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Determine whether tests are appropriate to use with the deaf/hard of hearing population.
- Adapt the vocational evaluation process for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Critically analyze vocational evaluation reports.

Units

- **Employment Services** (all topics applied to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing)
 - Job seeking skills
 - Employment training
 - Vocational placement

- Occupational communication specialists
- Supported employment
- Accessibility
- Common acronyms and vocabulary

- **Psychometric Testing**
 - Testing basics – to ensure learners have same basic information on psychometric testing
 - Pre-test preparation (with participant and interpreter)
 - Concerns during the testing process, including use of interpreters
 - Tests commonly used with people who are Deaf or hard of hearing
 - What occurs after testing

- **Vocational Evaluation**
 - Background on vocational evaluation to ensure all participants know the same basics
 - Lab-based vs. situational vs. community assessments for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing
 - Interest assessment
 - Specific tips for evaluating this population

What do I need to do to complete this course?

Work from the top of the course outline to the bottom (on the “Content” page).

1. **Post your personal introduction.** Respond to 1-2 others with whom you have something in common.

2. **Read the unit introduction** which will tell you about the presenter and what to expect in the presentation.

3. **Take the pre-test.** Note that you are not graded on it – the purpose is for you to see how much knowledge you currently have on the topic.

4. **Watch the videos,** which are about an hour long and broken into 5-7 segments.

Optional Resources which you can print and keep:

- The presenter's PowerPoint slides.
- Transcription of the presentation which is almost word-for-word.

5. **Complete the activities for the unit.** Most activities will be posted to the discussion board but some will use the dropbox, which is an area where only the course facilitator can see your response (a tutorial on how to use it is included in the first assignment). To receive a completion for the class, you must complete the activities to the course facilitator's satisfaction which will indicate you've demonstrated the competencies required.

6. **Respond to others on the discussion board.** See the next link in the course outline for more information on this aspect. Substantial responses (i.e., more than just an "I agree!") are necessary for completion of this course.

7. **Take the post-test.** This will allow you to demonstrate how your knowledge on the topic has improved.

8. The last link in the outline (**optional**) is for **general questions or comments** on the unit.

Learning From Others

A wonderful benefit from online learning is that the whole class can have discussions on the discussion board. Often in a face-to-face class, there are a few people who dominate the discussion, right? Many people don't say anything. They may be the most interesting people! In an online course we all have the same opportunity to speak (or write, actually). Sometimes people who are the shyest in a regular classroom have the most to say in an online course because they can think about it longer. A significant part of this course will be the written interactions that you have with other participants. **Your responses to others are a way for us to gauge whether you have read any other responses and have been taken into account when determining the amount of time it takes to complete this course.**

Past participants have found discussions to be a valuable way to learn more about the topic from another person's perspective. Others can sometimes post ideas about the topic that you may have never thought of. Being practitioners and adult learners, you all have valuable experiences that we can learn from and we want to hear them! Please share!

Don't worry – **this does not mean you have to login at a certain time or day.** Everything we do in this course is called "asynchronous." It doesn't have to occur at the same time; we don't use a chat or instant messaging function. You can login whenever you want but we recommend checking in every couple of days or for just a few minutes every day to check out any new postings on the discussion board. The more frequently you check in, the less time you will need to spend because you will keep track of discussions and won't be overwhelmed with the number of new postings. Some conversations may go on for a few weeks with postings every couple

of days. That's the benefit – you can just pick up wherever you left off in the conversation last time and you didn't miss anything.

Timelines

- It should take you around 10 hours to complete this workshop.
- This course is available for five weeks.
- **There are due dates for each unit.** You have two weeks from the start date of the course to submit your assignments for the first unit. The following two units are due one per week after that. An important part of this course submitting your work on time so others can read your response and you can participate in the discussions. **If you are unable to complete your assignments within four days of the due date, it may not be possible for you to successfully complete the course** since interactive discussion is a significant component to successful completion. We will try to work with you as much as possible but may need you to enroll in the next offering of this course when you are able to devote more time to it. We understand that sometimes unexpected issues arise and will do our best to work with you during these situations.
- **You can work ahead.** All of the units are available right away when you start the course. You could sit down and watch all of the videos and complete the activities the first weekend the course is available. However, since discussion is a required part of the course, you will still need to check in periodically to respond to at least two others in each discussion board and others who ask questions of you. So, even though you may have all of the activities completed, please continue to check in every few days to monitor the discussion board.
- We recommend that you **login at least twice a week** for a little while to post your assignments and respond to others on the discussion board.

Completion of Course

You do not get a grade for the course; this is a situation in which you either demonstrate the competencies required for each activity or not. If you are not demonstrating the competencies, your course facilitator will ask you additional questions or to revise your submission. It is rare than anyone does not demonstrate the competencies to achieve a successful completion after revising their submission, but it does happen occasionally.

Note that you have not completed the course until you respond to two other messages in each discussion board and others who ask questions of you. This is an important part of the course.

Under “Grades” in the course software the course facilitator will indicate whether you completed an activity or if you need to revise or clarify it. Do not assume that you have completed an activity until you see it marked as completed on the grades page. Grades for each unit will usually be posted 1-2 days after the following unit is due (to determine if you’ve completed the discussion requirements). Discussions may continue on each discussion board until the end of the course but they will likely slow down after the following unit is due as most participants will have moved on to the next one. Feel free to contact your course facilitator if you have any questions about your assignment.

This course is approved for 10 CRC clock hours and 1 CEU. Two of these hours are ethics credits. A certificate of completion and CEUs are provided to all learners who complete the course. CRC documentation is available upon request. Documentation of completions is emailed to the participants after the workshop is over.

To receive **Registry for Interpreters of the Deaf (RID) continuing education approval** through PINRA, you will need to have the course **preapproved** by a RID-approved sponsor since this course is a non-RID activity. See the following link for more information on PINRA:

http://www.rid.org/education/continuing_education/index.cfm/AID/103

Note: If for some reason you are unable to complete the course and would like a refund or to switch to the next offering of the course, we can accommodate that request but need to charge a \$10 processing fee for the staff time involved.

Accessibility

The videos in this course are all captioned and one (Employment Services) is presented in sign language with interpreter voice-over. All of the discussions are written. Past participants who were deaf or hard of hearing have often found the online learning modality to be beneficial since they did not miss out on conversations as they could in a face-to-face classroom since everything is written in an online course.

Our course management system (Desire to Learn or D2L) is accessible with screen readers such as JAWS and voice input systems such as Dragon Naturally Speaking. Past participants who used JAWS recommended that participants be fairly computer savvy and comfortable using JAWS as D2L is still working to improve accessibility to participants who are blind. At times, discussion threads may be difficult to follow and links may cause difficulty but if problems do occur, *we are happy to provide information in alternate formats*. Our goal is to continue to make courses as easily accessible as possible to people with disabilities.

Concerns

If you have questions or concerns about this course (content, technology, or accessibility), contact **April Pierson**, the online training coordinator, at 715-232-1685 or piersona@uwstout.edu. Your course facilitator and I will assist you as you become familiar with the technology and work through the course. We hope you “see” you online!