Deaf Success in Fall 2020: Guide for Colleges and Postsecondary Programs

No matter which direction your institution goes for Fall 2020—online, hybrid, or face-to-face—don't let your **deaf**[1] students **fall through the cracks**[2]. Colleges, universities, and postsecondary training programs have a **legal responsibility**[3] to **provide equal access**[4] to deaf students when they shift online. The only way forward is for us all to work together.

This guide has key strategies to support deaf success on your campus during Fall 2020 and beyond. Every link is to an NDC resource, tip sheet, or toolkit on that topic that can help.

KEY STRATEGIES

Consider the Whole Student

- Remember that **access is more than accommodations**[5] in the classroom. It is the full campus experience.
- Learn from **current deaf college students**[6] about their strategies for navigating different challenges during the pandemic.
- Keep deaf students connected with each other and with **deaf mentors**[7].
- Support them in **making the best use of technology**[8] and using proactive strategies to stay in touch when learning goes remote.
- Plan for critical opportunities with **internships and offsite accessibility**[9], and encourage students to connect with **vocational rehabilitation**[10] to coordinate supports.

Revisit Accommodations

- Consider how face masks can affect accessibility and learning for deaf students. NDC's tips can help **improve communication where face masks are required**[11].
- Ensure that **interpreters and speech-to-text services**[12] are available when needed in online or hybrid learning environments.
- Facilitate communication with **these five tools**[13] for streamlining your intake, contracts, and feedback protocol.
- Learn from the **successes and setbacks**[14] of others in higher education.

Be Prepared and Flexible

- Think inclusively in your **online course design**[15] and instructional strategies, including using a variety of materials and providing accessible ways for students to interact.
- Set up **protocols**[16] and share **tips with your instructors**[17] that help facilitate clear communication and sharing.
- **Caption all of your videos and media**[18], and do not rely on auto captions, such as those on YouTube.
- Periodically check in with the student and everyone else involved: including faculty, access providers, staff and administrators.

STAY CONNECTED WITH NDC

- **COVID-19 Info**[19] and **FAQs**[20] are regularly updated.
- **NDC | Help Team**[21] is just a click away.
- **Subscribe**[22] to keep current and connect with peers.

Strategy to Avoid
Students are not responsible for covering the costs of their own accommodations.

DIG DEEPER
Learn more in NDC's **online learning library**[23]—free, self-paced courses on Deaf 101, Improving Campus Access, and more.

Links

1. nationaldeafcenter.org/defining-deaf
2. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/pandemic-taking-unique-toll-deaf-college-students-according-new-poll
3. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/significance-harvard's-settlement-video-accessibility
4. nationaldeafcenter.org/dsptoolkit
5. nationaldeafcenter.org/resource/2018-2019-deaf-college-student-national-accessibility-report
6. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/pandemic-taking-unique-toll-deaf-college-students-according-new-poll
7. nationaldeafcenter.org/resource/role-models-facilitators-social-capital-deaf-individuals-research-synthesis
8. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/take-control-your-online-learning-tips-deaf-college-students
9. nationaldeafcenter.org/sites/default/files/Equitable%20Access%20Guide_%20Section%209.pdf
10. nationaldeafcenter.org/topics/vrtoolkit
11. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/communicating-face-mask-what-colleges-need-know-deaf-students-and-everyone
12. nationaldeafcenter.org/topics/remote-services
13. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/5-tools-disability-service-providers-colleges-and-universities-serving-deaf-students
14. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/disability-services-during-covid-19-supporting-deaf-students-and-preparing-uncertain-fall-2020
15. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/checklist-teaching-deaf-students-online
16. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/new-resource-offers-tips-teaching-deaf-students-online
17. nationaldeafcenter.org/news/remember-accessibility-rush-online-instruction-10-tips-educators
18. nationaldeafcenter.org/topics/captioned-media
19. nationaldeafcenter.org/covid-19-information
20. nationaldeafcenter.org/covid19faqs
21. nationaldeafcenter.org/get-help
22. nationaldeafcenter.org/newsletter-listserv-sign-up
23. nationaldeafcenter.org/learn