
LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS CENTER

Northern Essex Community College

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HINTS FOR USING AN ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE

Below are helpful tips on how to make a student's education as successful as possible when using an **Assistive Listening Device (ALD)**.

- ❖ At the beginning of each class, the student will give his or her instructor the microphone and transmitter. The instructor will return the microphone and transmitter to the student at the end of each class. (Students are responsible for all equipment.)
- ❖ The instructor should clip the microphone on his or her shirt near their mouth and attach the transmitter to their belt or waistband. The microphone and transmitter can also be positioned on a desk, table or podium at the front of the classroom.
- ❖ When the instructor wears the microphone and transmitter on his or her body, much of the background noise is eliminated. This allows a student to focus on the instructor's lecture without distraction. However, this may also prevent the student from hearing the class discussions. This can be resolved by encouraging students to speak one at a time and face the class when speaking. For example, if a student goes to the board, the instructor should remind the student to turn and face the class before speaking.
- ❖ If the instructor positions the equipment in the front of the room, class discussions will also be transmitted to the student's receiver. However, all background noises will be transmitted as well. The instructor and the student should discuss options and decide how to proceed.
- ❖ The student will wear a receiver that picks up the frequency broadcasted by the transmitter. Depending on the individual needs of the student, the receiver comes in a variety of styles. Some students will use earphones and others may use a neck loop to pick up the transmission.
- ❖ Instructors should turn the transmitter on before starting or resuming class and be certain to turn off the transmitter any time they leave the room during the class period (such as breaks, phone calls, etc.) The signal from the transmitter can be received hundreds of feet away. Therefore, private interactions can accidentally be overheard.
- ❖ Some students do not mind if other students know they are using an ALD. Others do not want to be identified. The student determines how they want to handle the situation.