



Assistive Listening Device Accommodation

An Assistive Listening Device (ALD) is a reasonable and necessary accommodation for students with hearing loss. It makes it possible for students with hearing loss to access and follow your lecture/presentation. The ALD transmits speech directly into the student's receiver or hearing aid, eliminating problematic classroom acoustics and ambient noise from masking your message. Thank using this device and for accommodating this student.

Process

Your student is responsible for managing and maintaining the equipment and ensuring that it is ready for you to use at the beginning of class. In most cases, the student will provide you with a small lapel mic that is connected to a small transmitter.

- Clip the transmitter to your belt or place it in a shirt, coat or pants pocket.
- Clip the lapel microphone to your collar or clothing between three to 5 inches from your mouth or the sound source.
- Take a moment to say a few words into the microphone so the student can adjust the volume on the receiver to your voice.
- At the end of class, the student will retrieve the ALD from you.
- Please contact the DSPS counselor if you have trouble with the technology or this process.

Strategies

- Have the student meet you outside of class or in your office to help you become acquainted with the ALD for you first time, otherwise please be discreet when receiving and returning the device in class so as not bring undue attention to this accommodation.
- Try to face the student when presenting. Although the student is now able to hear at a greater distance with the ALD, many students rely heavily on visual cues to aid understanding.
- Speak clearly and at your normal rate.
- Please repeat questions from the class or audience. The student may not be able to hear them while connected to you through the ALD.
- Please turn off the ALD during breaks, private discussions with other students or during small group activities. Of course, be sure to turn it back on when the presentation resumes.
- In some cases, the student may ask to use the ALD with the small group participants.
- For video or audio presentations, place the microphone near the sound source.

Types of ALD used at SBCC:

1. **Frequency Modulated (FM) Systems:** An FM system is a wireless, portable battery-operated device that uses radio transmission to send auditory signals. With most FM systems, the instructor wears a lavalier microphone connected to a body-worn transmitter. The student wears the FM receiver, as they would wear headphones. The FM receiver can also be connected to the student's hearing aid via an induction neckloop system or direct audio input cables. Special FM cables are also available for cochlear implant users.
2. **Bluetooth technology** offers the same benefits as an FM system, but with added benefit of connectivity. Although the range is limited, the lack of interference and secure connection outweighs any negatives. Devices such as the Roger Pen, allow Instructors to wear a discrete microphone in the form of a pen, which can be can be latched on to any article of clothes.