



From the Office of **Accessibility** Services

## A Guide to working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students

### A Synopsis of Deafness

Hearing loss affects more than 28 million people in the United States today. With the passing of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) law in 1990, an increased number of deaf and hard of hearing students are attending community colleges and universities, and looking for jobs.

Deafness is known as the invisible disability, it often goes undetected for an extended period of time. As a result, deaf individuals must learn, rather than acquire, their first language. Ways of communicating vary among these individuals and there is no right or wrong way to learn. Some individuals will use speech only; some will use a combination of sign language, fingerspelling, and speech; some will write; some will use body language and facial expressions to supplement their interactions. The important thing to remember is one deaf person's communication method does NOT represent tp13.-10 (s)2f98 (o)15 (rt)5 (a)-4T1(u)-13.998 (i)5 (r.998 (d)15 ( )



From the Office of **5WVgg[V] ]m**Services  
A

