

## **COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT: INTERPRETING SERVICES**

**Q. If the demand for sign language interpreters exceeds the money budgeted, what are the legal guidelines for providing services?**

**A.** Under Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, a college is obligated to provide accommodations to assure access to the general college services and instructional process to student with a documented disability. The law does not make exceptions based on financial consideration. If the student needs a sign language interpreter to receive equal access to the college's course or program information then the college must provide that service. Whether or not the college had planned and budget for such an expenditure is irrelevant to the legal requirement to provide the service.

**Q. Can we limit interpreter services per each student to just cover lecture hours?**

**A.** Under Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, a college is obligated to make special accommodations to assure access to the general college services and instructional process to students with a documented disability. A college is not required to provide interpreters for services of a personal nature. However, it is the responsibility of a college to establish policies that follow the intent of the law, which is not to deny qualified students with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from an educational program.

**Q. Can we limit interpreter services, tutoring services, etc. to the courses listed on the student's educational plan?**

**A.** There is nothing in the law that permits a college to limit services to students based on an educational plan.