



FACULTY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: THE TECHNOLOGY ISSUE

I've noticed students are coming into class with these writing instruments that record. Can you tell me a little bit about these devices?

The device you may be speaking of provides a platform for the student to take notes while also recording the lecture. Often times these special pens or smart pens will require dot paper and corresponding software that captures what is said. This device can be used for all types of curriculum, although; it is particularly helpful with mathematics and science courses. Often times, students will be intently listening while trying to write down complicated equations, diagrams from the blackboard. These pens can actually allow the student to make notations while simultaneously audio recording the professor's detailed description of the protocols, process or concepts in real time. The student can then review the saved audio recording which has been notated using the special pen. This encourages students with learning difficulties to employ three different ways of learning; visual, auditory and kinesthetic methods thereby ensuring greater understanding and retention.

Do I have to provide closed captioning for videos I play in class when I don't have a deaf or hearing-impaired student enrolled?



*"Equal access under the law is guaranteed by the institution. Students with disabilities are part of our cultural diversity and heritage."
Angela Apostal*

That's absolutely correct! Whether your course is taught in a traditional classroom or online with distance education, all video's, You Tube clips etc. must be close captioned regardless of whether a deaf or a hearing impaired student is enrolled in your class.

I have a great old video I have used for years successfully how am I supposed to pay for and get this close captioned?

Since this is a federal law requiring all educational institutions to provide equal access to all students it is the college's responsibility to provide funding for this

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very purpose. You may want to contact the dean of your division or your online distance education coordinator on campus as soon as possible to seek funding for this.

I've noticed that students have Kurzweil checked off on their Accommodations Form. What is this accommodation? I'm not familiar with it.

This is a common test-taking accommodation used to address visual processing deficits or delays that impacts the student's ability to decode words. The assistive software scans the word document and delivers an auditory file on the computer during an exam. Since the software helps the student to hear language spoken it provides an opportunity for the student to decode and thereby recognize the words. Under a whole other context students may use Kurzweil as a study tool (not during test time) for increasing reading comprehension which naturally is



extremely important to understand the curriculum. Under these non-test-taking circumstances, Kurzweil provides other wonderful strategy tools for study-time like a thesaurus, dictionary, antonyms, synonyms etc. Students may also use this device to work with a "study buddy" since it employs different modes of learning that help student's comprehension and retention, all part of the essential learning process.

I have a visually impaired student who can't see the blackboard very well.

How can I help them?

If the student is not currently identified as one of our students, please refer them to us for an intake appointment. Depending on the level of their visual impairment there are a number of services/devices we can provide for a blind or visually impaired student. Our department will provide a Clarity Unit that magnifies the blackboard for the student (depending if this is authorized by one of our DSP counselors), we also have a Braille for books/other materials and screen readers like "Jaws" that the (VI), visually impaired or blind student would require for equal access to curriculum.

