

May 23, 2014

Transcription Kelsey

Introduction: A video in which Katie describes her experience with accommodation for hearing loss.

What impact has your disability had on your college or university experience?

I'm hard of hearing which means that I actually cannot hear people talk, I have to lip read so obviously this has had a big impact on my university experience. Inside the classroom, I have had to make sure the prof. knows what's going on. Inside the classroom, I've had to use a variety of strategies, tricks to make sure that I can hear both the prof. and get what's going on around the classroom with students' participation. So I basically have gone up to almost every prof. and I have told them exactly what is the problem, the fact that I can't hear, the fact that they need to look at me, or they need to be at least facing in some direction and if it's problematic, because some profs like to, especially the ones that write on the board like to talk while they write on the board and then I don't really have much to go on there. I have had profs who can consistently forget and that makes me feel a little like intimidated almost and unwelcome. It's just a simple tip, a simple trick, like just try to remember, like everybody's human, and we forget, but consistently forgetting is not the best thing, I don't find it very welcoming. I'm a philosophy major, so a lot of my classes have participation marks, and it's very hard for me to follow along what's going on there so I end up working with my profs and sometimes I will email in my thoughts after class and stuff and it's just really the prof. being super flexible about stuff like that and it just makes my life so much easier. It's different but it's a level playing field kind of thing. Outside the classroom it's difficult just because I find that a lot of my friends, before they met me had never really interacted with a person who couldn't hear and it's just basically me saying, "Hey, this is what I need from you." Everybody's been pretty good about it, especially here at Mount A. It's a tight community so once somebody finds out, everybody knows but in this case it's a good thing because I do have a lot of friends that make sure that they look at me, and make sure that I feel included. So I would have to say I don't think it has really affected me that much outside of class.

What accommodation measures have you received to help you succeed in your studies?

Accommodation-wise I have an FM system which is basically a microphone that goes directly into my hearing aid so that I can hear the prof. and it's a pretty easy accommodation. I just give the FM to the prof. and they wear it and at the end of class they give it back to me and it allows me to get more of the lectures especially because I actually take my own notes because I find that I cannot learn from other people's notes. Other accommodations have been just for participation mark being able to email him questions or being able to go to office hours. I'm not necessarily expected to participate in class because I can't always hear the conversation and I can be quite lost and just don't know what's going on and I'll admit that before coming to university I was really concerned about this because it's important but the profs have been really good about it, and I'm still participating, it's just on a different level kind of thing. And it's great because I get to know the profs better one-on-one.

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What other things have helped you overcome your challenges and be successful in your college or university life?

I definitely think my attitude has helped. I do take school very seriously but at the same time, I do enjoy myself here and quite honestly with the right accommodations and with the right attitude, I don't feel that my hearing has prevented me from participating in any life from my university because I am doing well academically, I am involved outside of school.