Meeting the accessibility needs for the deaf and hard of hearing

Accessibility is both a moral and legal imperative, and educational institutions at all levels are increasingly committed to supporting the needs of all learners, including those with disabilities.

For those who are deaf or hard of hearing, closed captioning of videos incorporated in the curriculum has long been an accessibility staple. But now, with so many schools offering synchronous courses, live closed captioning has become an important element as well.

Closed captioning has many benefits. In addition to the obvious benefit that the learning experience closed captioning offers to the deaf and hard of hearing, it also provides assistance to learners whose native language differs from that of the instructor. Having the ability to read the lessons via closed caption also appeals to students that have a Reading/Writing learning style.

Introducing the Blackboard Live Closed Captioning Service

We believe that the synchronous teaching and learning experience should accommodate all learners, regardless of their abilities and dependency on assistive technologies. That’s why we are offering a new service to help you meet accessibility mandates and ensure that synchronous teaching and learning is available to all students. Through this service, a professional stenographer will attend to your synchronous course as a captioner and provide live closed captioning throughout the session.

The captioning service features:

- Two hundred words per minute live captioning service
- Education focused, experienced stenographers
- 98% accurate live captioning
- Conforms to the WCAG 2.1 Level AA standard
- Weekly Planning and scheduling for courses- Follow the student service approach. Our service follows the students and aligns the scheduling for their courses weekly.
This service not only creates an all-inclusive and accessible teaching and learning environment but assures a non-disruptive, and accurate service model for synchronous courses. Your synchronous courses will be delivered in an accessible manner in real time and can be recorded with captions to avoid wait time on post transcription.

**Blackboard’s Commitment to Accessibility**

The Live Closed Captioning Service is the latest in the long line of product and service offerings that underscore Blackboard's longstanding commitment to accessibility. We believe that the synchronous teaching and learning experience should accommodate all learners, regardless of their abilities and use of assistive technologies. That’s why we are offering a new service to help you meet accessibility mandates and ensure that synchronous teaching and learning is available to all students.

For more information visit [blackboard.com/accessibility](http://blackboard.com/accessibility)