There’s a Typewell Transcriber in my class.

Now what do I do?

Some students with hearing loss or a severe auditory processing disorder require transcription services to facilitate communication in the classroom. A Typewell Transcriber is a trained professional bound by a code of ethics. The following information should be helpful.

Real-time transcribing is a method of using specialized software to convert spoken language into visual text onto a laptop. Students read the transcription from a laptop or mobile device.

Lecture material, class comments and questions, and social interactions among the student’s peers are all transcribed. The transcriber captures both the meaning and style of what is said.

The text from the transcriber is not “word-for word”. The transcriber has been trained to condense information in order to keep up with the pace of the lecture, while retaining all essential points of the material.

The use of two linked devices allow the student to type questions and comments to the transcriber during class. The transcriber can then read (“voice”) for the student, if that is the student’s preference. If you find the student’s speech difficult to understand, you are encouraged to request that the student type his/her questions and comments to the transcriber for voicing.

It is very helpful to a student who is deaf/hard of hearing to receive copies of overheads used during your lecture. The student is responsible for copying the information on overheads or written on chalkboards. The transcriber will type your comments while you are using an overhead or chalkboard, but it is impossible for the student to simultaneously copy the information and watch the computer screen.

The transcriber will begin to set up equipment as soon as he/she arrives at the classroom. If the student is absent, the transcriber will wait about 20 minutes then leave the room with as little distraction as possible.

Transcribers may be scheduled with back-to-back classes. Time required for breakdown of equipment may occasionally cause the transcriber to be a few minutes late to the next class. If this becomes an issue, please communicate your concerns to the transcriber, or contact Access & Disability Services at the phone number/email address listed below.

At the end of the class, the transcriber will edit out non-subject related material, and will provide a copy of the transcript to the student to serve as the class notes for the day.