

Siena College

COLLEGE AND ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

Policy Title:	<i>Hearing Impaired Guidance</i>
Type or category of Policy:	<i>Administrative</i>
Approval Authority:	<i>Dr. Margaret Madden, Provost and Senior Vice President</i>
Responsible Executive:	<i>Dr. Margaret Madden, Provost and Senior Vice President</i>
Responsible Office:	<i>Academic Affairs</i>
Owner Contact:	<i>Office of Academic Affairs, academicaffairs@siena.edu, 518-783-2307.</i>
Reviewed By:	<i>Dr. Margaret Madden</i>
Reviewed Date:	<i>July 28, 2020</i>
Last Revised and Effective Date of Revision:	

**This policy was developed as a response to the COVID-19 crisis. It applies to the Fall 2020 semester and its continuation will be reviewed periodically as the situation changes.*

Policy template Approved by President's Cabinet 25 October 2016

All policies are subject to amendment. Please refer to the Siena College Policy website for the official, most recent version.

Reason for Policy

To address concerns with hearing in the classroom due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Scope of the Policy: Entities or Individuals affected by this policy

All Siena faculty and students.

The Official Policy:

As the fall semester begins with new protocols in place, including the wearing of masks in the classroom, we are asking faculty who have any concerns or anticipate challenges with hearing in the classroom to please reach out to Sherrill Brown (sbrown@siena.edu) in the Human Resources office as soon as possible. This will allow coordination of efforts between HR and ITS to address any potential concerns prior to the beginning of the semester. Adequate preparations cannot be made if potential challenges are not identified, so please educate us proactively about any concerns.

Students have been sent a similar request so that the Office of Accessibility can notify instructors if there are students in your classes with hearing impairments who may need accommodations. Students sometimes compensate for hearing impairments by sitting in the front of the room and/or lip reading. Some record lessons so they can transcribe them later to read. The wearing of a mask is mandatory, so lip reading will be difficult unless the professor and classmates use a clear view mask. Voices may be muffled due to the masks which makes hearing more difficult as well. Once we have identified potential challenges, we will be working to identify solutions.

Adopted: *July 28, 2020*

Reviewed: *Date the policy was last reviewed.*

Revised: *Date(s) of revisions made to the policy.*

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