



Improving Rural Interpreter Skills

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Improving Rural Interpreter Skills

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Module 4: Interpreting Observation



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Overview & Objectives

Overview: This module provides participants with over video* interpreting observation opportunities. These nationwide opportunities will allow for the viewing of various types of settings and interpreting configurations. Upon observation, participants will share and reflect upon their experiences.

*“over video” and “video remote” mean the same. This field uses those terms interchangeably.

Learning Outcomes and Objectives

Upon Completion of this module participants will be able to:

1. Identify and schedule interpreting observation hours.
2. Complete at least 10 hours of interpreting observation.
3. Reflect on the lessons learned from their observations.
4. Analyze the overall experience with fellow rural interpreting colleagues.



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Introduction

Observation: Over video

In this module via your observation experience, in one way or another, you will touch upon almost every topic we have covered during our time together in the CORE modules; encountering technology & interpreting (module 16), working in teams (modules 12 & 13), interpreting product & process (module 1, 6 and 11), ethics (modules 5 and 10) and diversity within deaf communities (module 2 and 4).

As you observe colleagues' interpreting work, we encourage you to broaden your thinking. Observation of interpreting work is deeper and requires action rather than passively watching an interpretation. Interpreting requires a multitude of decisions including considerations about language, setting, leveraging technology, teaming configurations, message equivalency, ethical decisions, and interactions with consumers. You are encouraged to analyze all of those aspects while doing the observations and be prepared to document what you learned in your journal.



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What does this look like? Part I

Why observation?

IRIS recognizes that we are all from various locations and time zones across the country with differing protocols pertaining to each state's interpreter working requirements (i.e. laws, licensure, etc..). To provide an equitable experience for all participants, IRIS is providing induction opportunities for observation over video. The aim is to create observation opportunities that you may not have access to in your rural areas. As all IRIS participants are also working interpreters, we encourage you to take the lessons learned from this module and apply them to your interpreting practice.

How this is going to work?

IRIS has partnered with [Vancro Integrated Interpreting Services \(VIIS\)](#) to provide observation opportunities. The decision to work with VIIS stems from their extensive experience in providing nationwide interpreting services to rural deaf communities and working with rural interpreters. VIIS has an unwavering commitment to providing IRIS participants with the most varied observation experiences possible.



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What does this look like? Part II (A)

How do I connect with VIIS?

IRIS has already done the heavy lifting. We have developed a system of communication between VIIS and IRIS participants, where you are able to choose observations that best fit your areas of interest.

Please join us at the upcoming program-wide synchronous session to meet the VIIS team and learn more about how to connect with VIIS and engage in observation opportunities. See the announcement posted in your COL for the date, time and meeting link. This session will be recorded and uploaded as an announcement in your COL as soon as it is available.

How do I choose which assignments to observe?

The *right* observation will be up to you. You may be curious to see interpreted interactions in settings different from than ones in your usual work. You may have limited opportunities to observe in a certain type of setting, given your rural location, and this opens a door you may not otherwise have. You may want to observe interpreters in settings where you have extensive experience to see how you might differently approach the work. You may opt to do all three, or something else, the choice is yours.



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What does this look like? Part II (B)

How are my hours counted?

1. You are guaranteed a minimum of two hours for every observation opportunity booked.
2. Regardless of whether the observation opportunity ends earlier than the booked time, you will receive credit for the full-time originally scheduled. For example, if an observation is initially scheduled for 4 hours but concludes in 3 hours, you will still be credited for the full 4 hours.
3. If an observation opportunity is canceled within 48 business hours of the scheduled start time, you will receive credit for the time originally booked. This is because finding a replacement opportunity on short notice can be challenging.
4. If an observation opportunity is canceled with 49 business hours or more notice, you will **not** receive credit for the time originally booked.



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What does this look like? Part III

What is expected of me?

1. Complete at least 10 hours of observation of over-video interpreting observation in a range of community-based settings by the end of this module.
2. Exhibit professional and ethical conduct, adhering to the [RID Code of Professional Conduct](#), throughout the observation period, and as appropriate, after the observation is completed (e.g. information shared by the participant with the public related to the induction experience or how the observation site conducts its business).
3. Arrive at the observation prior to the start time and stay the entire duration of the scheduled observation, unless otherwise arranged.
4. Upon arriving at the observation introduce yourself, as a participant in the IRIS Project, as appropriate. You will receive guidance on this for *each* assignment you are observing. Some assignments will have large attendance (i.e. a public event) where an introduction is not necessary, whereas others will be smaller in nature and an introduction is required.
5. Notify your facilitator if you are experiencing difficulties in obtaining observation hours.



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Moving Forward

Observation do-do?

After attending the program-wide synchronous session meeting with the VIIS team:

1. Establish your VIIS account.
2. Monitor your inbox for observation opportunities from VIIS.
3. Respond to all VIIS offers in a timely manner.
4. Upon confirmation of each observation make note in your personal calendar the details of the assignment.
5. Attend each confirmed observation opportunity per the expectations outlined on the previous slide.
6. Track your observation hours. *Reminder:* You are required to complete 10 hours of observation.
7. Each time after observing, reflect in your IRIS Induction Journal the following:
 - a. Provide a reflection on the interpreting process that you observed. Your reflection could include the following aspects: language, setting, leveraging technology, teaming configurations, message equivalency, ethical decisions, and interactions with consumers.
8. Before the end of the module respond to the GoReact prompts on the slide.

NOTE: If you are having difficulty obtaining observation hours ask your facilitator(s) for support.



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GoReact Discussion: Observation Experiences



NOTE: You have to log into Canvas to complete this assignment

After your observation experiences, respond to the following questions:

Original post directions:

1. What processes did you observe in the interpreters? These processes can include teaming processes, depth of processing, open process, or any other process you observed.
2. What approaches and strategies were used that you have not used before and would like to apply to your interpreting work? In your perspective, what is the value of those approaches and strategies?

Response post directions:

Respond to the post of one of your colleagues by asking clarifying questions, seeking additional information, or expressing an idea that encourages critical thinking and moves the conversation forward.



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Synchronous Session



This module **requires your attendance** at a synchronous session. Your facilitator will share the exact details of the date and time of this session. This meeting will be highly interactive reflecting on your observation experiences.

Preparation for the meeting:

Review your journal entries described on the *Moving Forward* page. Come prepared to discuss the observations you made.



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Reference

Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID). (2005). *NAD-RID Code of Professional Conduct*. Retrieved from <https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:154885ef-2f50-3664-ba5e-f9654c395ddf>



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