

How much does it cost?

Equipment: The cost of equipment will depend on the quality of computers and the type of linking devices used, as well as other peripherals (e.g., carrying bag). See the TypeWell website for information on current costs.

Transcriber's Salary: Salary ranges differ widely, but a general guideline is that a beginning pay is "just below what a beginning interpreter makes in your area." Transcribers who are also interpreters usually garner a somewhat higher pay. Pay level step increases based on experience and transcriber certification levels should be planned for.

The TypeWell software and training: The TypeWell software includes all needed functionality in just one program: 1) A word processor, 2) advanced abbreviation expansion and editing capabilities, and 3) automatic linking of 2 or more computers (via wireless &/or serial cable). The cost of the software for two computers ranges from \$300 to \$500, depending on features desired. Each TypeWell transcriber must complete a TypeWell training course. The cost of training can be as low as \$200/pp. See the TypeWell website at www.typewell.com for more training information.

Ideas for faculty working with TypeWell

The TypeWell transcriber's job in your class is to quickly and accurately record what you say and what students say. Here are some things you can do to support that effort:

- 1) Make the transcriber a welcome part of your class. You might introduce the transcriber to the class and allow the supported student or transcriber to briefly describe the service.
- 2) Allow the transcriber to sit in a convenient spot for listening, and seeing the board, overhead or videos.
- 3) Speak loudly, clearly and at a moderate pace. Allow the transcriber to ask you to repeat something he or she has missed. Spell out new vocabulary on the board.
- 4) Remind students to speak loudly and clearly so the transcriber can hear what they each say in class.
- 5) Repeat or rephrase student questions and comments that may have been difficult to hear or understand.
- 6) Provide the transcriber with copies of all handouts and visual aid materials (e.g., overheads, board diagrams, etc.). Making a copy of the text(s) available is also very helpful.
- 7) Be aware that the transcriber may voice for some deaf students. Please address your answers and comments directly to the deaf student, not to the transcriber.

A copy of the notes can be made available to you should you want to use them for any purpose (e.g., record of what you covered, resource material for absent students, etc.). Ask the transcriber or support service coordinator about this option, if you are interested.

TypeWell®

***A Speech-to-Text
Transcription
System
for Communication
Access and Notes***



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What is Speech-to-Text Communication Access?

All students have the legal right to know what instructors and students are saying in class. Speech-to-text services are one way to provide such access for students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. One familiar way of providing communication access is via a sign language interpreter. However, not all deaf and hard of hearing students know sign language, and many who do know it prefer to get their class information in a written format. For these students, a speech-to-text system can be ideal. Speech-to-text communication access can be verbatim, such as is available from certified court stenographers (aka CART providers). Or, the speech-to-text access can be in a richly detailed, meaning-for-meaning format, much like the transliteration done by sign language interpreters. TypeWell transcribers produce this kind of richly detailed, meaning-for-meaning communication access.

What is TypeWell?

TypeWell is a system that allows a school or agency to hire its own transcriber to provide speech-to-text communication access for deaf and hard-of-hearing students and staff.

The TypeWell system includes an advanced typing acceleration computer program, and a learning program for developing high-quality information analysis and presentation skills.

A trained TypeWell transcriber's real-time transcript is not verbatim, but it is far more than summarized notes. TypeWell transcripts maintain the language level and style of each speaker. They include jokes, examples, and other spontaneous language whenever possible. After class, the TypeWell transcriber can give the transcript to the student(s), in printed or electronic form (e.g., on a floppy disk, via email, posted on a web page).

Detailed analysis of transcripts produced in actual classes and meetings has shown that TypeWell transcribers with as little as six months experience capture between 80% and 98% of the content spoken by instructors and students.

How does TypeWell work?

A hearing transcriber uses a notebook computer with the TypeWell software to transcribe in a meaning-for-meaning format what is said in class lectures and discussions. One or more students can read the text from one or more other computers, from a TV monitor, a Braille writer, etc. Students wishing to do so can type their questions and comments to the transcriber for voicing during class. Students can also take their own notes in a separate window of the TypeWell program, and save them separately from the transcriber's notes, or have the two transcripts merged.

The TypeWell abbreviation system is based on how words are spelled. Thus, the abbreviations are natural extensions of the same thinking processes used in traditional typing. This makes the abbreviations quick and easy to learn, and to use automatically during fast-moving lectures and discussion. TypeWell also includes quick correction and formatting features. All these features help to significantly reduce the time and keystrokes needed to produce detailed real-time transcripts.

What equipment is needed?

The equipment needed to provide communication access with TypeWell is simple: a notebook computer for the transcriber; a viewing device for the reader(s), such as a second notebook computer or a TV monitor; and, a device to link the computers - either a set of installed wireless cards (i.e., WiFi) or a serial cable. Equipment needed to provide notes after the class or meeting depends on how the notes will be provided, and might require a printer, email access or simply a floppy disk. Additional recommended equipment to support the ergonomic health of the transcriber includes a portable steno table, a roller bag to carry the computers and equipment, and a comfortable chair in each class. Details of all equipment can be found at the TypeWell website, at www.typewell.com.