

Living Successfully With Hearing Loss

Vancouver Community College's (VCC) Living Successfully with Hearing Loss (Level 1) course enables adults with hearing loss to engage more confidently in a hearing world by developing and practicing speechreading, communication strategies, and assertiveness skills.

This course promotes skill development and attitudinal change towards communicating with a hearing loss. Participants, including individuals who have hearing loss and their partners, reflect on how hearing loss impacts communication.

The course allows students the opportunity to create more effective personal communication, to identify and select communication strategies and tools, to increase self-confidence levels, and to learn to self-advocate. The students practice speechreading: they detect differences in mouth movements, discriminate and identify visual aspects of speech, and incorporate visual information with what they hear with the goal of improving personal communication.

Course topics

- Hearing anatomy and audiological testing
- Categories of homophenous sounds (e.g., /p b m/, / f v/, /t d n l/, /s z/)
- Speechreading practice with words, sentences and conversation practice
- Factors that affect the ability to communicate (i.e., environment, speaker, listener, message)
- Relaxation exercises
- Hearing assistive technology (e.g., hearing aids, telephones, FM and infrared systems)
- Conversational strategies (e.g., repetition, rephrasing)
- Communicating in difficult situations (e.g., telephone, restaurant, groups, children)
- Assertive behaviour (i.e., definitions, comparisons, practice, reflection)
- Body language and facial expressions
- Humour as a strategy

Course information

- Length: 27-hours part-time
- Start: September, January, and April
- Online courses available
- Financial aid may be available

Program admission requirements

- Students must have good spoken English and be 18 years or older
- An interview with the instructor is required
- Friends and family members are encouraged to register along with students who are hard of hearing



For more information, please contact:

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