

The Ledger

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New Account Code Established for ASL Interpreter Services

Earlier this year, a campus accessibility working group, convened by Dr. Dwayne Pinkney, Senior Vice President for Operations and Administration, reviewed a number of program and services around campus accessibility. One item that has surfaced for several years relates to American Sign Language interpreting services. Specific questions raised included: how much does the university spend for interpreter services; how many interpreters are being used; how often do we have departments who have difficulty finding an interpreter for an event/program; and, do we have opportunities for improvement in this area?

Additionally, departments and groups on campus have raised concerns for the past few years regarding ascertaining American Sign Language interpreting services for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. Providing effective communication for individuals with disabilities is legally required under the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, for employees of the university, students, and visitors to campus. Our ADA office has received specific concerns around the difficulty in obtaining interpreters for specific events, trainings, meetings and ascertaining funding for ASL interpreting services.

Currently, departments are responsible for funding ASL interpreting services for their employees and the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is responsible for funding ASL interpreting services for classroom academics for students. There is currently limited information regarding the overall number of requests for American Sign Language interpreting services and a lack of knowledge regarding how much the institution is spending for ASL interpreting services across the university for employees and nonacademic activities, events, and meetings for students.

To help address these questions, additional data is necessary. The Controller's Office has established an account code, specifically for ASL: Interpretive Services. Having this data will provide the opportunity to look at campus-wide solutions for future years.

The new account code for "Interpretive Services" is 124ZN. Beginning July 1, 2019, departments and units should use this account code for interpretative services.

Avoid Obsolete Organizational Numbers in PageUp

As Human Resources implements the new recruiting and onboarding system, PageUp, university departments may consider submitting a request to the Controller's Office to terminate obsolete organization numbers in Banner. PageUp interfaces with Banner Finance, creating a drop-down menu for selecting an organization for creating a posting and onboarding employees. To ensure only valid options appear in PageUp submit a request to finrpt@vt.edu to inactivate the organization number. Emails must be from fiscal managers and include the organization code. Before submitting a request, confirm the following:

- no active funds roll up to the organization code,
- no fixed assets are attached to the organization code, and
- no VT Foundation funds are attached to the organization code.