This endorsement entitles the holder to teach deaf or hard of hearing students using sign language communication strategies in all public schools.

Cumulative GPA Requirement
- New Jersey requires that candidates for certification achieve a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 when a GPA of 4.00 equals an A grade for students graduating on or after September 1, 2016 (2.75 for those graduating before September 1, 2016) in a baccalaureate degree program, higher degree program or a State-approved post-baccalaureate certification program with a minimum of 13 semester-hour credits.
- Please note that there are GPA Flexibility Rules where a high praxis score may offset a GPA that is lower than 3.0, but higher than 2.75.

Instructional Certification
- The Teacher of Deaf or Hard of Hearing with Sign Language Communication endorsement is not a standalone certificate. Candidates need to hold a CE, CEAS or standard NJ instructional certificate with an endorsement appropriate to the subject or grade level to be taught. If you have not yet applied for instructional certification, please see the NJ DOE website for details and a listing of instructional endorsements.

Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI)
- Current regulations require applicants for the Teacher of Deaf or Hard of Hearing with Sign Language Communication endorsement to achieve a score of intermediate or above on the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI). This test was formerly known as the Sign Communication Proficiency Interview (SCPI). Testing information can be obtained from the New Jersey School for the Deaf, West Trenton, by contacting Kim Arrigo at kim.arrigo@mksd.org. The Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI) is offered by a team of professionals trained to administer the assessment. Inquire on fee for assessment.

Professional Teacher Preparation
- Current regulations for certification require that applicants complete a State-approved Teacher of the Deaf or Hard of Hearing with Sign Language Communication program that culminates in supervised clinical practice. When you apply, please attach the Verification of Program Completion form.

State Teaching Certificate
- Please submit a copy of an out-of-state teaching certificate that is equivalent to a NJ Standard Instructional Certificate. Holders of a NJ Standard Instructional Certificate do not need to send in a copy of their certificate.

Record of Professional Experience
- Please submit the Record of Professional Experience form which must be filled out by your employer.

The New Jersey Department of Education will make the final determination as to whether or not the experience meets NJ reciprocity regulations.

Please Note: Holders of a NJ standard instructional certificate do not need to send in the above form with the exception of those who hold a standard Teacher of the Handicapped certificate.
Fee Requirement
- No checks or money orders will be accepted.
- Please make the payment online.
- Please notify your examiner after payment has been made.
- If your application expires after six months, you will be charged a fee of $70.
- All fees, including money left on file, are nonrefundable

Online Certificate Information
- All information regarding applications and certifications is now available online, including certificate name, certificate ID number, date of issuance, and expiration date, if applicable. Instructions to view this information can be found here.
- In order to make certification information available more quickly, this information will appear on our website in lieu of the issuance of paper certificates. If you would like to view the status of your application, then please visit our application status check.

You cannot complete the entire application process online. After applying online, please submit ALL necessary documentation together IN A SINGLE PACKET to the NJ DOE in order to complete your application. Please put your tracking number on all documents that you send to our office.

IF YOU HAVE MET THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS, THEN CLICK HERE TO APPLY ONLINE.