



Quality Programs ♦ Expert Faculty ♦ Flexible Delivery

DEWAR COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN SERVICES

B.S.Ed. in American Sign Language Interpreting

The Bachelor of Science in Education degree in American Sign Language/English Interpreting is a rigorous program that prepares students to work as professional interpreters, ensuring communication access in a variety of settings wherever hearing and D/deaf or hard of hearing people come together. Our graduates go on to work in K-12 and post-secondary public educational settings, as well as other community, freelance, and staff interpreting positions. Valdosta State University is the only college in Georgia to offer a Bachelor's Degree in American Sign Language Interpreting. Because of a critical shortage of American Sign Language interpreters, students in the Valdosta State program are in high demand. The degree program may be completed via distance learning or on campus, where classes average approximately 15 students. Students gain hands-on experience by participating in fieldwork, service learning, and internships.

Program of Study

Prior to Program Admission

INTP 2998: Entry to the Profession

prior to Sophomore or Junior Fall Semester (only offered in Summer):

ASLS 2110: American Sign Language I

ASLS 2120: American Sign Language II

Junior Fall Semester:

ASLS 3170: American Sign Language III (can be taken sophomore year with core)

DEAF 3100: Orientation to Deaf Education and Language Learning

SPEC 3000: Introduction to Serving Individuals with Diverse Needs

INTP 3010: Introduction to ASL/English Interpreting (Online)

ASLS 3190: Fingerspelling, Numbers, and Classifiers (Online)

Junior Spring Semester:

ASLS 3180: American Sign Language IV (can be taken sophomore year with core)

DEAF 3120: Learning, Cognition, and Social Development in Deaf Children

ASLS 3140: Linguistics of American Sign Language

INTP 3150: ASL/English Translation (Online)

DEAF 3150: Deaf Community, Culture, and History (Online)

Senior Fall Semester:

INTP 4010: Consecutive English to ASL Interpreting

INTP 4020: Consecutive ASL to English Interpreting

INTP 4030: Consecutive Transliteration

INTP 4040: Practicum in Educational Interpreting

Senior Spring Semester:

INTP 4050: Simultaneous English to ASL Interpreting

INTP 4060: Simultaneous ASL to English Interpreting

INTP 4070: Simultaneous Transliterations-English to English Signed Systems

INTP 4080: Internship for Educational Interpreters

Total hours required for the professional education portion of the ASL degree - 66 semester hours

B.S.Ed. in American Sign Language/ English Interpreting Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do I have to know sign language before I enroll?

No. Coursework in American Sign Language is part of the major core and program.

2. Is the program completed online?

No. Some of our courses (INTP 3010, for example) are online only courses, but most of the coursework is completed in face to face classes or videoconferencing technology that allows you to attend classes remotely at the same times as the onsite students.

3. Will I be a certified interpreter when I complete this degree?

That depends on your level of proficiency, but usually not. This program, like almost all undergraduate interpreting programs, prepares you for entry-level work in the field. National Interpreter Certification is usually attained after a few years of experience working as an interpreter.

The state of Georgia requires licensure for interpreters working in K-12 schools. In order to obtain a license, you must have National Interpreter Certification or have a 3.5 or better on the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment. Many of our graduates achieve a 3.5 or higher upon program completion. This, in combination with the earned Bachelor's Degree would make them eligible for a clear, renewable Georgia Educational Interpreting License.

4. Does this degree certify me to teach ASL?

No. The role of the interpreter is very different than that of a teacher. Program coursework prepares you for work as an interpreter, but does not teach you how to teach. For more information on Georgia Teacher Certification in ASL, see the Georgia Professional Standards commission website for pathways to ASL Certification.

5. I don't want to earn a degree; can I just take ASL classes?

Our courses are offered to degree-seeking students enrolled at Valdosta State University. Contact Continuing Education for more information on community ASL course Offerings.

6. I am happy with my major, but want to take ASL courses-can I?

Yes! When seats are available, non-major students are permitted to enroll in ASL courses. We also offer a minor in Deaf Studies which includes the four ASL courses and two additional culture/education courses.

7. Can I transfer credit from another institution into the program?

Your first step is to apply to admission to VSU. Your transcript will be evaluated and an advisor will contact you letting you know for which courses you received credit and which remaining courses you need to complete. A minimum of 30 credit hours must be completed at Valdosta State University in order for the degree to be awarded.

8. What is the minimum GPA required for program entry?

Students must have a 2.75 cumulative GPA in order to be admitted to the program.

Contact: Christia Williams, Program Coordinator 229.249.4957 ctwillia@valdosta.edu or
Dr. Barbara Radcliffe, Department Head 229.333.5611 bjradcliffe@valdosta.edu

