

Department of Sign Language Interpretation

Mission Statement

The faculty of Bethel College's Deaf Studies and Interpreter Training Program strive to bring students into the d/Deaf community and the interpreting profession through a challenging and nurturing academic environment. This environment encourages critical and creative thinking, integrates the Scriptures and personal faith with formal studies and challenges students toward a global perspective. Specifically, students are educated about the language and culture of the Deaf community, trained in the essentials of sign language interpreting, and assisted in developing professional and ethical decision-making skills. Our curriculum aligns with CIT and NAD's standards and reflects the skill mastery criteria outlined by RID.

General Department Goals

The department of Sign Language Interpreting values diversity in its faculty, students and staff, and in the work it does to advance the goals of its discipline. The department is committed to developing students' receptive and expressive language skills, critical thinking and communication skills, and fostering an appreciation of human experience through exposure to the thought, literature, and language of other cultures.

The department defines diversity as accepting, respecting and recognizing individual differences. These can be along the dimensions of race, ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, religious beliefs and cultures that use different languages. Exploring these differences in a safe, positive and nurturing environment creates understanding beyond simple tolerance, rather an understanding that honors and celebrates the varying aspects of diversity within individual identities.

Its annual development goal assumes that academic departments, student support services, campus administrative units and college leadership groups' goals should reflect college goals. The department's planning process, including budget development,

Accordingly, the goal of the Sign Language Interpreting Department is to maintain teachers who are scholars as well as teachers; are committed to the academic success of all of their students; are concerned with the personal as well as intellectual development of their students; use pedagogical strategies which are firmly grounded in empirical research; and understand the value of self-reflection and continuing professional development.

Specific Department Goals:

- to facilitate an accessible, safe and respectful teaching and learning environment for students, faculty and staff
- to maintain open lines of communication between all department members
- to acquire and maintain services and materials needed to fulfill professional responsibilities
- to align ourselves with the Mission Goals of Bethel College

to continue scholarship opportunities relevant to their discipline

Deaf Studies/Sign Language Interpreting

The program began in August 1995 and was the first four-year interpreting program established in Indiana. Our faculty includes both Deaf and hearing instructors who maintain their professional status, possess national certifications and continue to support their communities in various activities. The program offers two courses of study: an Associate Degree in Deaf Studies and a Baccalaureate Degree in Sign Language Interpreting. The program also offers a minor in American Sign Language Studies. For other majors, American Sign Language courses satisfy the language requirement and/or electives. The major in interpreting prepares students to work as professional interpreters. The curriculum includes prerequisite courses accomplished during the freshmen and sophomore years followed by two years of major course work. During the junior year, interpreting students apply for permission to do a ten week practicum during the last semester. Students must take the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf's written examination prior to taking the Interpreting Practicum course. Students must complete all course work, except the last semester's conjunction courses, prior to the beginning of their practicum experience. The practicum course may be scheduled out of the state. Each student is required full-time availability and is responsible for his/her own housing and transportation.

Students must pass each skill building American Sign Language and Interpreting course with a grade of "C" or better in order to take the next level of courses. Students have up to two semesters to meet this requirement. (For transfer students, the credits of equivalent courses from another college/university can be transferred if s/he takes a proficiency assessment to determine if the courses need to be repeated or if s/he may proceed to the next level.) Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 in order to be eligible to take the interpreting courses in their third year in the program. (This includes major courses, cognates and electives.)

The Michiana Deaf Community is a growing source of Deaf pride. The Michiana Deaf Club, the Senior Citizen's Center and Deaf Christian Fellowship are three prominent organizations that work together to provide their communities with education and social activities. Students have ample opportunities to interact with Michiana's Deaf Community as well as Deaf communities in surrounding cities. ASL and interpreting students of Bethel College share the experience of sharpening their professional skills in an ASL club which meets monthly and provides like-minded students with a learning environment.

Deaf Studies Major A.A. Degree

General Studies			HOURS
THEO	110	Exploring the Christian Faith	3
COMM	171	Speech Communication	3
ENGL	101	Written Communication II	3
PHIL	150	Logic & Critical Thinking	2
PSYC	182	General Psychology	3
PHED	100	Lifelong Physical Awareness	0.5
SOC	151	Principles of Sociology	3
HIST	210	History of the Christian Church & the Deaf Community	3
BIBL	216	New Testament Literature, or	3
BIBL	215	Old Testament Literature	(3)
		Math/Science with Lab	3-4
		Music/Art/Literature/Drama	3
PHED	112-136	Physical Education Activity	<u>0.5</u>
			30-31
Major			
ASL	101	ASL I with Lab	4
ASL	111	ASL II with Lab	4
ASL	201	ASL III with Lab	4
ASL	204	English Idioms & ASL Equivalents	4
ASL	208	American Deaf Culture	3

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING

			HOURS
ASL	211	ASL IV with Lab	4
ASL	214	Advanced Fingerspelling/Numbers	2
SOC	202	Race & Ethnicity	<u>3</u>
			28
Electives needed to complete degree			3-4

Sign Language Interpreting

General Studies

COMM	171	Speech Communication	3
ENGL	101	Written Communication II	3
ENGL	102	Written Communication III	3
PSYC	182	General Psychology	3
PHED	100	Lifelong Physical Awareness	0.5
SOC	151	Principles of Sociology	3
BIBL	215	Old Testament Literature	3
BIBL	216	New Testament Literature	3
ASL	101	ASL I with Lab	4
ASL	111	ASL II with Lab	4
HIST	210	History of the Christian Church & the Deaf Community	3
SOC	202	Race & Ethnicity	3
		Art/Drama/Music	3
		College Level Math	3
		Science with Lab	4
		Literature	3
PHIL	150	Logic & Critical Thinking	2
PHIL	250	Introduction to Philosophy	3
THEO	110	Exploring the Christian Faith	3
PHIL	452	Senior Experience	1
PHED	112-136	Physical Education Activities	<u>1.5</u>
			59

Major

ASL	201	ASL III with Lab	4
ASL	204	English Idioms & ASL Equivalents	4
ASL	208	American Deaf Culture	3
ASL	211	ASL IV with Lab	4
ASL	214	Advanced Fingerspelling/Numbers	2
ENGL	304	Introduction to Linguistics	3
INT	301	Interpreting I with Lab	4
INT	302	Interpreting II with Lab	4
INT	309	Survey of ASL Literature	2
INT	311	Linguistics of ASL	3
INT	401	Interpreting III with Lab	4
INT	402	Interpreting IV with Lab	4
INT	406	Specialized Vocabulary for Interpreters	2
INT	417	Interpreter Certification/Evaluation	1
INT	418	Job Market Analysis in Interpreting	2
INT	420	Ethical Issues in Interpreting	3
INT	450	Interpreting Practicum	<u>8</u>
			57

Electives needed to complete the degree 8

American Sign Language Minor

ASL	101	ASL I with Lab	4
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SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING

			HOURS
ASL	111	ASL II with Lab	4
ASL	201	ASL III with Lab	4
ASL	204	English Idioms & ASL Equivalentents	4
ASL	208	American Deaf Culture	3
ASL	211	ASL IV with Lab	<u>4</u>
			23