

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.

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 major course work and all general studies course work (exceptions limited to 7 credits), except the last semester's conjunction courses INT 402 and INT 402L, 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. Due to the nature of practicum, there may be additional fees for a student depending on the chosen location. Some fees may be required for licensing applications and licenses. There might also be state examinations that need to be taken prior to or upon arrival at the practicum site. Some states require a background check. The student is responsible for all of these costs.

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 may retake an ASL course only once in order 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.) Beginning the semester a student takes ASL 201/201L, there is a minimum cumulative GPA requirement of 2.5. This requirement is for each subsequent semester and continues until the student completes the program. (This includes general studies courses, major courses, cognates, and electives.) When the first semester of non-compliance occurs, the student will receive a warning and has one semester to meet the 2.5 minimum.

Deaf Studies Major A.A. Degree

| | | | HOURS |
|------------------------|---------|---|--------------|
| General Studies | | | |
| 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 | 0.5 |
| | | | 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 |
| ASL | 211 | ASL IV with Lab | 4 |

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING

| | | | HOURS |
|-------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 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 |
| SOC | 202 | Race & Ethnicity | 3 |
| HIST | | History | 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 |
| ASL | 311 | Rhetoric and Socio-linguistic Competence | 4 |
| ENGL | 304 | Introduction to Linguistics | 3 |
| INT | 301 | Interpreting I with Lab | 4 |
| INT | 302 | Interpreting II with Lab | 4 |
| INT | 304 | Fundamentals of Interpreting | 3 |
| INT | 311 | Linguistics of ASL | 2 |
| INT | 401 | Interpreting III with Lab | 4 |
| INT | 402 | Interpreting IV with Lab | 4 |
| INT | 417 | Interpreter Certification/Evaluation | 2 |
| INT | 418 | Job Market Analysis in Interpreting | 2 |
| 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 |
| ASL | 111 | ASL II with Lab | 4 |
| ASL | 201 | ASL III with Lab | 4 |
| ASL | 204 | English Idioms & ASL Equivalents | 4 |

INTRODUCTION

| | | | HOURS |
|-----|-----|-----------------------|--------------|
| ASL | 208 | American Deaf Culture | 3 |
| ASL | 211 | ASL IV with Lab | <u>4</u> |
| | | | 23 |