

American Sign Language- English Interpretation

Associate of Applied Science

Purpose: The degree in American Sign Language (ASL)-English Interpretation is designed to prepare individuals for a career in sign language interpretation.

Occupational Objectives: A majority of full-time ASL-English interpretation positions in the Commonwealth are found in the K-12 public school setting. The minimum requirement to work as an ASL-English interpreter in the K-12 setting in Virginia is a VQAS Level III; national certification exceeds this requirement. Those interpreters who attain national certification may also consider freelance and contract interpreting opportunities, including the expanding fields of video relay service (VRS) and video remote interpreting (VRI), which both utilize interactive video technology via the Internet.

Admission Requirements: General college curricular admission

Program Notes: ASL-English Interpretation is a two-year, full-time course of study that enrolls new students annually to begin coursework during the fall semester with programmatic content provided year-round until completion. The program consists of 18 credits in general education requirements and 47 credits in American Sign Language and Interpreter Education (ASL&IE). Candidates for admission to the program must provide evidence of fluency in both English and ASL. Fluency in English is demonstrated by placement into ENG 111. Fluency in ASL is demonstrated by completion of the "American Sign Language" career studies certificate and successful completion of the following courses with a "C" or higher: ASL 125, ASL 220, and ASL 261. Fluency in ASL may also be demonstrated through a placement interview with the American Sign Language and Interpreter Education program head.

As part of the ASL-English Interpretation curriculum, students are prepared to sit for the National Interpreting Certification (NIC) evaluation. Successful completion of this 3-step process results in national certification as an ASL-English interpreter, which may be maintained through the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) via continuing education. As of July 1, 2008, individuals are required to have an associate degree, or equivalent as determined by the National Council on Interpreting (NCI), in order to sit for the NIC evaluation. On July 1, 2012, the requirement to sit for the NIC evaluation becomes a bachelor's degree. For more information on the NIC, please visit <http://www.rid.org>.

The student must receive a passing score on either the VQAS or NIC written assessment portion of a "C" or higher in INT 130 prior to initiating INT 280, "Interpreter Assessment Prep," offered during spring semester, year 2. It is

typical for students to sit for the VQAS performance exam during the spring or summer semesters, year 2. Initiation of the INT 290 ASL-English Interpretation internship during the summer of year 2 is typical. Students are also prepared to take the Virginia Quality Assurance Screening (VQAS). Successful completion of this 2-step process results in a state screening level, which is valid for three (3) years by which time the interpreter must be screened again. For more information on the VQAS, please visit <http://www.vddhh.org> or contact the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH) at 1-800-552-7917 [V/TTY].

Financial Requirements:

Books and Supplies \$400 first semester; \$200 for all other semesters
 Certification/Testing Fees Contact RID for NIC fees; Contact VDDHH for VQAS fees

Computer Competency Requirement: Students in this program will meet the college’s computer competency requirement by successfully completing ITE 115. Students can also meet this requirement by passing the college’s computer competency exam administered in the testing centers on each campus, in which they will receive college credit for ITE 115. Students not passing the computer competency exam may retake the exam only once.

CURRICULUM				
Fall, Year 1				
COURSE	TITLE	LEC. HRS.	LAB. HRS.	CRS. CRE.
SDV 100	College Success Skills	1	0	1
ENG 111	College Composition I	3	0	3
INT 195	Introduction to ASL-English Interpretation	1	0	1
INT 105	Interpreting Foundations I (English)	4	0	4
INT 106	Interpreting Foundations II (ASL)	4	0	4
ITE 115	Introduction to Computer Applications and Concepts	3	0	3
TOTAL		16	0	16
Spring, Year 1				
ASL 225	Literature of the U.S. Deaf Community	3	0	3
ASL 262	American Sign Language VI	4	0	4

INT 130 ¹	Interpreting: An Introduction to the Profession	3	0	3
INT 107	Translation Skills	4	0	4
TOTAL		14	0	14
Summer, Year 1				
INT 133	ASL-to-English Interpretation I	3	0	3
INT 134	English-to-ASL Interpretation I	3	0	3
TOTAL		6	0	6
Fall, Year 2				
MTH 120	Introduction to Mathematics	3	0	3
INT 233	ASL-to-English Interpretation II	3	0	3
INT 234	English-to-ASL Interpretation II	3	0	3
CST ____²	Speech Elective	3	0	3
____ ³	Personal Wellness Elective	2	0	2
TOTAL		14	0	14
Spring, Year 2				
INT 280 ⁴	Interpreter Assessment Preparation	3	0	3
INT 250	Dialogic Interpretation I	3	0	3
____ ³	Social/Behavioral Science Elective	3	0	3
PSY ____ ⁵	Psychology Elective: 200-Level	3	0	3
TOTAL		12	0	12
Summer, Year 2				
INT 295	Interpreting in Safe Settings	3	0	3
INT 290 ⁶	ASL-English Interpreter Internship	0	12	3
TOTAL		3	12	6
Total Minimum Credits for AAS Degree in ASL-English Interpretation				68

¹A passing score on either the VQAS assessment written portion or a "C" or higher in INT 130 is required prior to enrolling in INT 280, Interpreter Assessment Preparation. Preparation for both the VQAS and NIC written assessments is a focus of INT 130.

²The speech elective should be chosen from the list of speech and drama courses offered by the college in the course descriptions section of the catalog.

³A list of approved general education electives (humanities/fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, mathematics, science, and wellness) is provided in the General Education section

of the catalog under Curriculum Planning and Design.

⁴Interpreter interview and performance assessment preparation is the focus of INT 280.

⁵The 200-level psychology course should be chosen from the list of approved social/behavioral science courses in the General Education section of the catalog under Curriculum Planning and Design.

⁶In order to be placed in an internship (INT 290, summer year 2), the student must sit for and be awarded an interpreting credential (e.g., VQAS level or NIC certification) or pass the JSRCC ASL&IE ASL-English interpreter assessment.