

Interpreter Education

Becoming an American Sign Language - English interpreter

Students who wish to become professional sign language interpreters must develop fluency in both American Sign Language and English. The Interpreter Education curriculum prepares individuals to work as entry-level American Sign Language - English interpreters who provide communication access for people who are Deaf and hard of hearing within a variety of interactive settings. An AAS Degree in Interpreter Education (A55300) is available for students wanting to become ASL-English Interpreters.

The AAS in Interpreter Education is a 76-credit program that typically takes up to eight semesters to complete because foundational ASL skills must be acquired before learning to interpret between ASL and English.

Because the program is spread out over eight semesters, the program is essentially part-time, with most semesters requiring between 9 and 11 credits hours of study. Because of course sequencing, students wishing to complete the AAS in Interpreter Education are strongly encouraged to begin their studies with ASL 111 and ASL 181 in the Fall term. Students also should seek academic advising directly from the program to discuss their course sequence and career goals with the program faculty.

The curriculum also provides excellent opportunities for interpreters already working in the field who want to enhance their knowledge and interpretation skills or work toward achieving National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf National Interpreter Certification.

Certification in Basic ASL Communication

Some students take ASL classes to satisfy foreign/modern language requirements in other degree programs and only take two or three semesters of ASL instruction. Some students seek more in-depth ASL instruction but do not wish to become ASL-English Interpreters. For those students, a Certificate in Basic ASL Communication Skills (C55300-C6) is available to document a social level of ASL proficiency for a variety of employment or personal reasons. ASL 111, ASL 181, ASL 112, ASL 182, ASL 211, ASL 281, ASL 212, ASL 282 are transferable courses under the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement.

Little or No Experience in American Sign Language

Students entering the program with little or no experience in communicating in American Sign Language (ASL) must complete ASL foundational courses prior to enrolling in courses for the Interpreter Education Program. Students who have never taken a college-level American Sign Language course are required to start with Beginning ASL 111 and ASL 181 (lab).

Prior College-Level ASL Courses

Students who have taken at least four semesters of college-level ASL course(s) at a regionally accredited institution and possess at least an intermediate level of fluency in American Sign Language, as demonstrated by both the ASL placement interview and an intermediate score on the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI), may be able to complete the Interpreter Education program in four semesters. A student who does not have formal collegiate-level ASL course credits must begin their ASL studies in ASL 111 and ASL 181 (lab). There is no credit-by-exam available for ASL courses.

Employment Opportunities

Entry-level employment for professional interpreters is available in a variety of community and educational settings. Interpreters may consider part-time, full-time, self-employment, and private practice positions or

apply American Sign Language skills to other related areas of human services.

AAS in Interpreter Education graduates interested in working in the K-12 educational setting are able to be qualified to work in NC Public Schools by obtaining a 3.0 or better on the Educational Interpreters Performance Assessment (EIPA).

AAS Interpreter Education graduates working in settings other than educational or religious, including medical, business, mental health, legal, performing arts, community and video relay/remote settings in NC must be licensed by the NC Interpreters and Transliterators Licensing Board (NCITLB). Graduation with an AAS in Interpreter Education is one pathway to obtain a provisional license to begin entry-level employment.

Provisional licenses are renewable for a limited number of years. To convert a provisional NCITLB license to a full license, interpreters must obtain National Interpreter Certification (NIC) through the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID). To sit for NIC, interpreters must have a BA/BS degree in any field or a demonstrated equivalency of credits through the RID alternate pathway. Multiple avenues are available for students to meet NIC testing requirements that should be discussed with a program advisor.

For specific information about potential positions and wages in interpreter education employment, visit the Central Piedmont Career Coach website.

Interpreter Education (A55300)

Degree Awarded

The Associate in Applied Science (A55300) degree - Interpreter Education is awarded by the college upon completing this program.

Admissions

- A high school diploma or equivalent is required.
- Central Piedmont placement tests are required in English, reading, and mathematics. Students must take and pass ENG 111 with a grade of "C" or better, successfully pass a credit by exam, or transfer an ENG 111 equivalent course.
- Students must attain a minimum required score on the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI) to major in the Interpreter Education program and take advanced ASL, IPP, or WBL prefix courses: ASL 250, IPP 112, IPP 130, IPP 152, IPP 153, IPP 161, and IPP 245. Eligible Scores: SLPI ratings older than one year cannot be accepted for admission into the program.

Expired Placement Tests

- Students for whom an ASL placement interview or SLPI tests have expired must repeat the placement interview and/or achieve an intermediate score on the SLPI to enter or return to the Interpreter Education program.

Coursework

Many courses have prerequisites or co-requisites; check the Courses section for details.

Coursework includes:

- Acquisition of American Sign Language (ASL): grammar, structure and socio-linguistic properties, cognitive processes associated with interpretation between ASL and English, and Deaf culture
- Ethical decision-making, and

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- Acquisition of consecutive and simultaneous interpreting skills.
- Students must earn a grade “C” or better in all ASL, IPP, and WBL prefix courses to advance to the next level of courses and for those course credits to count toward satisfying degree completion requirements.

See the Interpreter Education Program website for more information.

Lapse in Proficiency

- Students for whom two or more consecutive terms have lapsed since taking an ASL course must take a placement interview before registering for ASL courses (except for ASL 111 and 181, Beginning ASL 1) to determine proper placement in ASL and IPP (Interpreting) courses. Courses may need to be repeated if skills have declined significantly. This requirement includes students transferring ASL credit from another college or university.

A student must receive a final grade of “C” or higher in all ASL, IPP, or WBL courses to receive credit for that course toward an Interpreter Education A.A.S. (A55300) degree or to advance to the next level of coursework.

Articulation Agreement

An articulation agreement is in place between the Central Piedmont Interpreter Education program and Gallaudet University - Bachelor degree in Interpretation (BAI). At Gallaudet University, students must apply for acceptance into the program and pass an ASL placement test. Once accepted, Gallaudet guarantees the transfer of Central Piedmont college-level credits with a grade of “C” or equivalent and requires that a grade of “B” or higher be maintained in all interpreting courses.

Contact Information

The Interpreter Education program is in the Education & Training Division at the Cato Campus. For more information about the Interpreting degree or Interpreting courses, ASL courses, ASL placement testing or the SLPI, contact the Interpreter Education Program Chair at 704-330-4886.

General Education Requirements

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-----|
| ENG 111 | Writing and Inquiry | 3.0 |
| Select 3 credits of the following: | | 3.0 |
| ENG 112 | Writing and Research in the Disciplines | |
| ENG 113 | Literature-Based Research | |
| ENG 114 | Professional Research & Reporting | |
| Select 3 credits of the following: | | 3.0 |
| MAT 110 | Mathematical Measurement and Literacy | |
| MAT 121 | Algebra/Trigonometry I | |
| MAT 143 | Quantitative Literacy | |
| MAT 152 | Statistical Methods I | |
| MAT 171 | Precalculus Algebra | |
| Select 3 credits of the following: | | 3.0 |
| ART 111 | Art Appreciation | |
| ART 114 | Art History Survey I | |
| ART 115 | Art History Survey II | |
| DRA 111 | Theatre Appreciation | |
| HUM 120 | Cultural Studies | |
| HUM 130 | Myth in Human Culture | |
| MUS 110 | Music Appreciation | |

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| MUS 112 | Introduction to Jazz | |
| PHI 215 | Philosophical Issues | |
| PHI 240 | Introduction to Ethics | |
| REL 110 | World Religions | |
| Select 3 credits of the following: | | 3.0 |
| ECO 251 | Principles of Microeconomics | |
| ECO 252 | Principles of Macroeconomics | |
| HIS 111 | World Civilizations I | |
| HIS 112 | World Civilizations II | |
| HIS 131 | American History I | |
| HIS 132 | American History II | |
| POL 120 | American Government | |
| PSY 150 | General Psychology | |
| SOC 210 | Introduction to Sociology | |

Major Requirements

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|---------|---------------------------------------|-----|
| ASL 111 | Elementary ASL I | 3.0 |
| ASL 112 | Elementary ASL II | 3.0 |
| ASL 211 | Intermediate ASL I | 3.0 |
| ASL 250 | Linguistics of American Sign Language | 3.0 |
| IPP 111 | Introduction to Interpretation | 3.0 |
| IPP 112 | Comparative Cultures | 3.0 |
| IPP 152 | ASL/English Translation | 3.0 |
| IPP 161 | Consecutive Interpreting | 5.0 |
| IPP 221 | Simultaneous Interpreting I | 5.0 |
| WBL 111 | Work-Based Learning I | 1.0 |
| WBL 115 | Work-Based Learning Seminar I | 1.0 |

Other Major Requirements

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----|
| ASL 181 | ASL Lab 1 | 1.0 |
| ASL 182 | ASL Lab 2 | 1.0 |
| ASL 212 | Intermediate ASL II | 3.0 |
| ASL 281 | ASL Lab 3 | 1.0 |
| ASL 282 | ASL Lab 4 | 1.0 |
| IPP 130 | Analytical Skills for Interpreting | 3.0 |
| IPP 153 | Introduction to Discourse Analysis | 3.0 |
| IPP 222 | Simultaneous Interpreting II | 5.0 |
| IPP 240 | Ethical Standards and Practices | 3.0 |
| WBL 121 | Work-Based Learning II | 1.0 |
| WBL 125 | Work-Based Learning Seminar II | 1.0 |
| Select 5 credits of the following*: | | 5.0 |
| ASL 110 | Visual Gestural Communication | |
| ASL 151 | Numbers and Fingerspelling | |
| ASL 221 | Advanced American Sign Language I | |
| ASL 222 | Advanced American Sign Language II | |
| ASL 225 | Global Deaf Community | |
| ASL 252 | American Sign Language Classifiers | |
| ASL 253 | American Sign Language Non-Manual Signals | |
| ASL 255 | American Sign Language Literature and Folklore | |
| ASL 260 | American Sign Language Semantics | |
| IPP 224 | ASL to English Interpretation | |
| IPP 245 | Educational Interpreting Issues | |

*Students may opt to use one Selected Topics course in Interpreter Education toward their elective requirement.

Total Credits 76

No diplomas are offered in Interpreter Education.

Interpreter Education Certificate (C55300)

Interpreter Education Certificate Specialization in Basic ASL Communication Skills (C55300-C6)

This certificate is available through the Career & College Promise program.

The Basic ASL Communication Skills Certificate (C55300-C6) is designed to provide students with the foundational ASL skills needed to continue in the Interpreter Education Program (A55300) AAS degree. It also serves to demonstrate basic ASL Communication proficiency for students whose primary goal is to develop ASL communication skills for either personal or employment-related reasons.

This certificate may be used to demonstrate a particular level of proficiency in ASL to employers, but it will not qualify students to work as Sign Language Interpreters in any setting in North Carolina. Students obtaining the Basic ASL Communication Skills Certificate (C55300-C6), who desire work as interpreters, must continue their studies to complete the degree requirements for the AAS (A55300) Interpreter Education degree.

Students wishing to take more than three semesters of ASL should start their ASL studies in the Fall term with ASL 111 and ASL 181 and continue their studies without interruption each term in order to stay in sequence and ensure course availability. Middle College and High School students taking the Basic ASL Communication Skills Certificate (C55300-C6), who ultimately wish to complete the AAS (A55300) degree in Interpreter Education, should meet with a program advisor in the Interpreter Education program to discuss degree map and course sequencing to foster correct course registration and sequence.

Major Requirements

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|---------------|---|-----|
| ASL 111 | Elementary ASL I | 3.0 |
| ASL 112 | Elementary ASL II | 3.0 |
| ASL 151 | Numbers and Fingerspelling | 1.0 |
| ASL 211 | Intermediate ASL I | 3.0 |
| ASL 181 | ASL Lab 1 | 1.0 |
| ASL 182 | ASL Lab 2 | 1.0 |
| ASL 212 | Intermediate ASL II | 3.0 |
| ASL 253 | American Sign Language Non-Manual Signals | 1.0 |
| ASL 281 | ASL Lab 3 | 1.0 |
| ASL 282 | ASL Lab 4 | 1.0 |
| Total Credits | | 18 |