

Definition

Deaf Studies offers associate degree and certificate programs in both American Sign Language and Interpreter Training. American Sign Language is suited for those interested in learning to communicate with people in the Deaf community, as well as enhancing cultural awareness. Interpreter Training focuses on developing and utilizing American Sign Language skills to provide communication access for persons who are Deaf or Hard-Of-Hearing. The successful student has many career opportunities to choose from upon completion.

Staff

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Distinctive Features

The American Sign Language courses teach the language used by the Deaf, hard of hearing, and include discussion about Deaf Culture and problems experienced by Deaf people.

Career Options

Deaf Education Teacher
Human Services

Instructional Aide
Interpreter (Signer)
Special Education Teacher
(Some of these careers may require education beyond the two-year college level.)

Certificate Program

(Revised certificate pending approval from the Chancellor's Office.)

There are two certificate programs available: 1) American Sign Language (ASL), and 2) Interpreter Training (INT).

Students must receive a minimum grade of "C" or better in all required core courses and the specific courses listed as program electives in order to qualify for the degree or certificate.

American Sign Language

This certificate requires a minimum of 38 units. Students must take all courses listed in the "Required Courses" and complete the remaining units from program electives.

Required Courses	units
DFST 101, Amer. Sign Language I	4
DFST 102, Amer. Sign Language II	4
DFST 105, Intro. to Amer. Deaf Culture	3
DFST 201, Amer. Sign Language III	4
DFST 202, Amer. Sign Language IV	4
DFST 204, Structure of Amer. Sign Language	3
COMM 103, Process of Communication	3
INT 101, Principles of Sign Language Interpreting	3
INT 201, Sign/English Translation	3

Students must complete at least 7 units from the following program electives.

Program Electives:	
DFST 101L, ASL I Skill Building Lab	1
DFST 102L, ASL II Skill Building Lab	1
DFST 106, Intro. to Deaf Education	3
DFST 108, Visual, Gestural, and Non-Manual Aspects of ASL	3
DFST 201L, ASL III/IV Skill Building Lab	1
DFST 205, Numbers, Fingerspelling and Classifiers	3

DFST 206, Creative Signing	2
DFST 199, Work Experience	1-4

Interpreter Training

This certificate requires a minimum of 38 units. Students must take all courses listed in the "Required Courses" and complete the remaining units from program electives.

Required Courses	units
DFST 101, Amer. Sign Language I	4
DFST 102, Amer. Sign Language II	4
DFST 201, Amer. Sign Language III	4
DFST 202, Amer. Sign Language IV	4
COMM 103, Process of Communication	3
INT 101, Principles of Sign Language Interpreting	3
INT 201, Sign/English Translation	3
INT 202, Sign Language Interpreting I	3
INT 203, Sign Language Interpreting II	3
INT 204, Sign/English Transliteration	3

Students must also complete at least 4 units from the following program electives.

Program Electives:

DFST 105, Intro. to American Deaf Culture	3
DFST 204, Structure of Amer. Sign Language	3
DFST 205, Numbers, Fingerspelling and Classifiers	3
INT 205, Interpreting in Specialized Settings	3
INT 206, Introduction to Sign to English Interpreting (Voicing)	4
INT 199, Work Experience	1-4

Associate Degree

American Sign Language

The requirements for an Associate degree in American Sign Language may be satisfied by completing 31 units of required courses, selecting an additional 7 units from the program electives, 21 units of general education requirements, and sufficient elective credits to total 60 units. (See Graduation/Associate Degree Requirements.)

Students who complete the associate degree have enhanced employability working with the Deaf community in settings such as social work and education. They are well prepared for full-time, permanent positions rather than temporary, on-call positions. The associate degree will provide students with a broad range of knowledge with which to evaluate and appreciate American Sign Language, Deaf culture, and the society in which they live and with the ability to think and communicate clearly and effectively.

Interpreter Training

The requirements for an Associate degree in American Sign Language may be satisfied by completing 34 units of required courses, selecting an additional 4 units from the program electives, 21 units of general education requirements, and sufficient elective credits to total 60 units. (See Graduation/Associate Degree Requirements.

Students who complete the associate degree have enhanced employability working with the Deaf community in settings such as social work, education and interpreting. They are well prepared for full-time, permanent positions rather than temporary, on-call positions. The associate degree will provide students with a broad range of knowledge with which to evaluate and appreciate American Sign Language, Deaf culture, and the society in which they live and with the ability to think and communicate clearly and effectively.

Transfer

Students planning to continue studies at a four-year college or university after AVC should visit the Transfer Resource Center and consult with a counselor as soon as possible. Additional information on official transfer articulation agreements from AVC to many CSU/UC campuses can be found at the following Web site: www.assist.org

Prerequisite Completion

If a course is listed as a prerequisite for another course, that prerequisite course must be completed with a satisfactory grade in order to enroll in the next course. According to Title 5, Section 55200(d), a satisfactory grade is a grade of "A," "B," "C" or "P". Classes in which the Pass/No Pass option is available are indicated with an asterisk (*) before the course title. See "Pass/No Pass Option" in the catalog for full explanation.

Deaf Studies Courses

DFST 101 *AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE I

4 units

5 hours weekly

Advisory: Eligibility for ENGL 099 and READ 099.

As part of the American Sign Language (ASL) course sequence, ASL I is designed mainly to introduce ASL, a visual-gestural language used by the Deaf community in the United States and Canada, and, more importantly, to focus on the development of basic conversational skills, emphasizing receptive abilities. Deaf culture will be studied as it relates to the course. (CSU, UC, AVC)

DFST 101L *AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL I) SKILL BUILDING LAB

1 unit

3 hours weekly

Corequisite: Completion of DFST 101 or concurrent enrollment.

Advisory: Eligibility for ENGL 101 and READ 099.

This course is designed for students in ASL I wishing to become more proficient in using ASL and to further develop vocabulary, ASL grammar, finger-spelling, and basic conversational skills. This course is taught in ASL only. (CSU, AVC) (R3)

DFST 102 *AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE II

4 units

5 hours weekly

Prerequisite: Completion of DFST 101.

As part of the American Sign Language (ASL) course sequence, ASL II is designed for students who wish to develop or enhance their proficiency in ASL usage. The course stresses development of basic conversational skills with emphasis on vocabulary and expressive skills. Deaf culture will be studied as it relates to the course. (CSU, UC, AVC)

DFST 102L *AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL II) SKILL BUILDING LAB

1 unit

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Completion of DFST 102 or concurrent enrollment, and Eligibility for ENGL 101 and READ 099.

This course is designed for students in intermediate sign language (DFST 102) wishing to become increasingly more proficient in using ASL and to further develop their vocabulary, ASL grammar, and finger-spelling skills. This course is taught in ASL only. (CSU, AVC) (R3)

DFST 105 *INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN DEAF CULTURE

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Eligibility for ENGL 101.

Discussion of various aspects of the American Deaf Culture, including description of deafness, deaf people and the Deaf community as defined by audiology and/or cultural means, services for and by deaf people, and culture as reflected in the language of Deaf people. Deaf culture vs. "Hearing" culture is also analyzed and discussed. (CSU, AVC)

DFST 106 *INTRODUCTION TO DEAF EDUCATION

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Eligibility for ENGL 101 and READ 099.

This course will provide the student with a general orientation to the Deaf community. The course provides an overview of the historical, philosophical, psychological and social aspects of Deaf education. In addition, it provides orientation to problems, issues and research in the field of educating the Deaf. (CSU, AVC)

DFST 108 *VISUAL, GESTURAL, AND NON-MANUAL ASPECTS OF AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL)

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Completion of DFST 102, and Eligibility for ENGL 099 and READ 099.

Examines the visual and gestural aspects of communication which form an integral base for communicating in American Sign Language. Non-manual features of ASL such as facial expression and body movements will be identified and analyzed. This course will develop and enhance the student's expressive non-verbal communication skills and receptive understanding of visual communication. (CSU, AVC)

DFST 199 *WORK EXPERIENCE

1-4 units

hours vary

Prerequisite: Students must be registered in at least 7 units (including the Work Experience units) and have approval of instructor supervising work experience subject area. Prior to enrolling, students must attend a scheduled orientation.

The Work Experience program provides supervised employment extending classroom-based learning to an on-the-job learning situation. Students meet with instructor by arrangement to discuss learning objectives, along with experiences and/or problems arising on the job. (CSU, AVC) (R3)

DFST 201 *AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE III

4 units

5 hours weekly

Prerequisite: Completion of DFST 102.

This course is designed for students to acquire communicative competency in ASL. The course promotes the shifting from comprehension to production of ASL. With expanded vocabularies and grammatical patterns being exposed, the students continue to develop their ASL competencies in numerous conversational settings. The main emphasis is to bring the student's ASL fluency to a point of self-generated ASL for the purpose of furthering language use in ASL. Deaf culture will be studied as it relates to the course. (CSU, UC, AVC)

DFST 201L *AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL III/IV) SKILL BUILDING LAB

1 unit

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Completion of DFST 201 or concurrent enrollment, and Eligibility for ENGL 101 and READ 099.

Designed for students in advanced sign language courses (DFST 201 or DFST 202) wishing to become more proficient in using ASL and to further expand and develop their vocabulary, ASL grammar, and fingerspelling skills. This course is taught in ASL only. (CSU, AVC) (R3)

DFST 202 *AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE IV

4 units

5 hours weekly

Prerequisite: Completion of DFST 201.

Advanced study of ASL grammar. Further development and refinement of ASL skills and fluency. Deaf culture will be studied as it relates to the course. (CSU, UC, AVC)

DFST 204 *STRUCTURE OF AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

3 units

3 hours weekly

Prerequisite: Completion of DFST 102.

Advisory: Eligibility for ENGL 101 and READ 099.

This course will provide the student with the basic concepts of phonological, morphological, syntactic, semantic, and sociolinguistic structure of American Sign Language (ASL). Social issues as they pertain to ASL will also be explored. (CSU, AVC)

DFST 205 *NUMBERS, FINGERSPELLING AND CLASSIFIERS

3 units

3 hours weekly

Prerequisite: Completion of DFST 101.

Advisory: Eligibility for ENGL 101 and READ 099.

This course will focus on providing more advanced experiences and communication techniques with expressive and receptive fingerspelling, the use of classifiers, and the use of American Sign Language (ASL) number systems. Numbers will include, but are not limited to: cardinal, ordinal, informational numbers; numbers related to time, temporal aspect signs, measurements, sports and mathematical numbers. (CSU, AVC) (R1)

DFST 206 *CREATIVE SIGNING

2 units

2 hours weekly

Prerequisite: Completion of DFST 101.

Advisory: Completion of DFST 102 or concurrent enrollment, and Eligibility for ENGL 101 and READ 099.

This course will provide the student with techniques of facial expression, characterization, body movement, and spatialization as it relates to American Sign Language. Development of expressive sign language skills through the use of poetry, songs, skits, storytelling, jokes and slang signs. (CSU, AVC) (R2)

Interpreter Training Courses

INT 101 *PRINCIPLES OF SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING

3 units

3 hours weekly

Advisory: Eligibility for ENGL 099 and READ 099.

An introduction to the profession of Sign Language Interpreting. Topics will include: the history and definitions of interpreting, modes and methods, the need for interpreters, the professional standards and Code of Professional Conduct, interpreter settings, evaluation (regional and national testing standards) and certification of interpreters, legal mandates (including the ADA—Americans with Disabilities Act), employment issues, and culture as it relates to interpreting. (CSU, AVC)

INT 199 *WORK EXPERIENCE

1–4 units

hours vary

Prerequisite: Students must be registered in at least 7 units (including the Work Experience units) and have approval of instructor supervising work experience subject area. Prior to enrolling, students must attend a scheduled orientation.

The Work Experience program provides supervised employment extending classroom-based learning to an on-the-job learning situation. Students meet with instructor by arrangement to discuss learning objectives, along with experiences and/or problems arising on the job. (CSU, AVC) (R3)

INT 201 *SIGN/ ENGLISH TRANSLATION

3 units

5 hours weekly

Prerequisite: Completion of DFST 201 or concurrent enrollment.

Advisory: Completion of INT 101 or concurrent enrollment, and Eligibility for ENGL 099 and READ 099.

Introduction to the practice of translation between ASL/PSE and English texts. Discourse and text analysis will be introduced and emphasized throughout the course. As the first step toward simultaneous interpreting, translation enables students to discover meaning and render a written translation without the time constraints of real-time interpretation. Students will generate translations of texts with factors such as genre, audience and context. Students will produce final translation in ASL/PSE and English. (CSU, AVC)

INT 202 *SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING I

3 units

5 hours weekly

Prerequisite: Completion of INT 201, and Completion of DFST 202 or concurrent enrollment.

Advisory: Completion of INT 101, COMM 101 and THA 110 or concurrent enrollment, and Eligibility for ENGL 099 and READ 099.

Designed to build on skills acquired in INT 201 (ASL/English Translation). Students will practice interpreting in a consecutive manner (i.e. receiving a message in its entirety, analyzing the content for meaning and producing an equivalent message in the target language, Sign-to-Voice and Voice-to-Sign). There will also be continued study and practice of discourse and text analysis. Equal emphasis will be given to ASL and English texts. (CSU, AVC)

INT 203 *SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING II

3 units

5 hours weekly

Prerequisite: Completion of DFST 202 and INT 202.

Advisory: Completion of COMM 101 and THA 110 or concurrent enrollment, and Eligibility for ENGL 099 and READ 099.

Designed to build on skills acquired in INT 202 (Sign Language Interpreting I). Introduction to simultaneous interpretation, which requires processing information and transmitting it into a second language within the same time frame as the source language. Target languages are ASL/PSE and spoken English. Emphasis is on grammatical structure/discourse analysis, process time, vocal inflection, voice/sign clarity and monitoring. (CSU, AVC)

INT 204 *SIGN/ ENGLISH TRANSLITERATION

3 units

5 hours weekly

Prerequisite: Completion of DFST 202 and INT 202.

Advisory: Completion of COMM 101 and THA 110 or concurrent enrollment, and Eligibility for ENGL 099 and READ 099.

Introduction to transliteration theory and application. The student will develop the skills required to accurately interpret a spoken message into signed English and a signed English message into standard spoken English. The areas of concentration are non-manual signals, mouth movement, fingerspelling and monitoring for complete thoughts through the use of vocal and body inflection. (CSU, AVC)

**INT 205 *INTERPRETING IN
SPECIALIZED SETTINGS**

3 units

5 hours weekly

Prerequisite: *Completion of DFST 202 and INT 202.*

Advisory: *Completion of COMM 101 and THA 110 or concurrent enrollment, and Eligibility for ENGL 099 and READ 099.*

Introduction to interpreting in a variety of settings including community, medical, mental health, minimal language skills, performing arts, religious, telephone and television interpreting. Focus will be on environmental considerations, vocabulary development, resource building, general knowledge, ethics and situation considerations. (CSU, AVC)

**INT 206 *INTRODUCTION
TO SIGN TO ENGLISH
INTERPRETING (VOICING)**

4 units

4 hours weekly

Prerequisite: *Completion of or concurrent enrollment in INT 201.*

Advisory: *Eligibility for ENGL 099 and READ 099.*

This course will provide the student with techniques for sign to voice (voicing) interpreting. This course focuses on the development of sign to voice translation abilities and sign to voice consecutive interpreting. (CSU, AVC)