

ASL/ENGLISH INTERPRETING

pcc.edu/programs/sign-language/

CAREER AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Professional sign language interpreters work in a variety of settings such as education, social service, religion, government, business, performing arts, mental health, medical, legal, video relay and law enforcement. Interpreters may specialize in one area or may work in private practice in a variety of settings. Currently, the demand for services exceeds the supply of qualified interpreters nationwide.

The ASL/English Interpreting Program is a two-year, intensive program that prepares graduates for entry-level ASL-English interpreting work, with a strong foundation in Deaf culture, interpreting skills, and ethical practices. Many of the graduates of this program are hired into entry level positions in educational and video relay settings. The program believes in teaching language through immersion and interpreting competencies through application. The primary language of instruction is American Sign Language.

A transfer agreement between PCC and Portland State University allows students to apply credits earned in ASL/English Interpretation AAS degree or Deaf Cultural Studies Certificate toward a bachelor degree in any major at Portland State University. For more information, contact Portland State University.

DEGREE AND CERTIFICATES OFFERED

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE

ASL/English Interpreting

ONE-YEAR CERTIFICATE

Deaf Cultural Studies

Academic Prerequisites

1. This is a limited entry program. Students must submit an application.
2. Complete WR 121Z with a letter grade of "C" or better prior to entering the program.
3. Complete ASL 240 with a letter grade of "C" or better prior to entering the program. Students taking any prerequisites classes during the summer prior to enrollment may be tentatively accepted based on their progress in the course at midterm, with final acceptance pending successful completion of the course.
 - a. ASL 240 is a lecture course listed under American Sign Language in the college schedule and serves as a prerequisite course.
4. Complete ASL 101, ASL 102, ASL 103, and ASL 201, ASL 202, ASL 203 or ASL 150, ASL 151, ASL 250, ASL 251 with a letter grade of "C" or better prior to entering the program.
5. Demonstrate American Sign Language and other basic skill and knowledge competencies through the department-administered assessment given in the spring.

Applications are due the last Friday in March. Applicants will be given a language assessment in the spring. Student must pass the language assessment and complete all prerequisites prior to entering the program. Minimum entrance requirements are intermediate level for ASL and superior level for English. Candidates with higher language competencies will be awarded seats before those with lower language competencies.

Academic Requirements

- The AAS is a full-time six term program for students interested in sign language interpretation as a career. A maximum of 25 students will be accepted annually starting in the fall term. There

are six practicum courses which place students in contact with Deaf people, employers and professional interpreters. Students must pass a benchmark assessment before being placed in an internship. Graduation is dependent upon entrance into and successful completion of an internship under the direction of a professional interpreter who acts as a mentor.

- Students must receive passing grades as determined by program policy to maintain student status in the program. Students are required to take either ITP 283 or ITP 284 for graduation for the Associate of Applied Science Degree.
- Note: All ITP courses are open to professionals working in fields serving Deaf people. This is subject to course availability, class size, and program permission based on prerequisite skill and knowledge. Please contact the department chair to discuss the suitability and appropriate placement.
- Because interpreters work in a variety of settings, students are encouraged to broaden their general knowledge in a variety of areas. For those planning to work in K-12 or post-secondary education, background in English, writing and literature, history, science, social studies, math, and basic computer use is essential. ASL/English Interpreting students may find the following electives helpful: COMM 111Z and TA 144.
- Students in the ASL/English Interpreting Program, who find that interpreting is not an appropriate goal for them, may transfer to the Deaf Studies program. Coursework for the Deaf Cultural Studies certificate closely parallels that of the ASL/English Interpreting, with the omission of some of the hands on interpreting courses. The Deaf Cultural Studies certificate does not qualify students to work as interpreters, but may be helpful to those who work with Deaf people in fields such as education, advocacy, or working in an agency that serves Deaf people. Deaf Cultural Studies is a certificate program and does not lead to an associate degree.

Non-Academic Prerequisites

- None

Non-Academic Requirements

- Criminal history background checks will be mandatory. Satisfactory background checks are needed to qualify for field placements within the ASL/English Interpreting Program. The cost for the criminal history background check is the responsibility of the student.

ASL/ENGLISH INTERPRETING PROGRAM

Minimum 94 credits. Students must also meet Associate Degree Comprehensive Requirements and Associate of Applied Science Requirements. Students must complete a total of sixteen credits of General Education. Some courses specified within the program may be used as General Education. Math/computation competency is met through the courses in the program of study indicated with a § symbol. Students should consult with program advisors for course planning.

Course of Study

The coursework listed below is required. The following is an example of a term-by-term breakdown.

First Term		Credits
ITP 111	Advanced ASL	4
ITP 122	Discourse Analysis	2
ITP 179	Field Experience I: Applied ASL	2
ITP 264	Introduction to the Profession	2
ITP 270	Foundations of Interpreting I	4
Second Term		
ITP 123	Intercultural Communication for Interpreters	4

ITP 181	Field Experience II: Applied ASL	1
ITP 228	Decision-Making Models	2
ITP 230	ASL Linguistics I	3
ITP 271	Foundations of Interpreting II	4
Third Term		
ITP 112	ASL Development for Interpreters I	3
ITP 231	ASL Linguistics II	3
ITP 265	Introduction to Ethical Practices in Interpreting	3
ITP 272	Foundations of Interpreting III	4
ITP 279	Practicum I §	2
Fourth Term		
ITP 113	ASL Development for Interpreters II	3
ITP 220	Consumer-Driven Interpreting	2
ITP 266	Ethical Practices in Specialized Settings	2
ITP 273	Interpreting in Specialized Settings I §	4
ITP 281	Practicum II	2
General Education: 1 Course		
Fifth Term		
ITP 211	ASL Development for Interpreters III	2
ITP 221	English Development for Interpreters I §	2
ITP 267	Ethical Practices in K-12 Settings	2
ITP 274	Interpreting in K-12 Settings	4
ITP 283	Internship I §	3
General Education: 1 Course		
Sixth Term		
ITP 213	ASL Literature for Interpreters	2
ITP 251	Interpreting in Specialized Settings II §	4
ITP 268	Ethical Business Practices for Interpreters §	2
ITP 278	English Development for Interpreters II §	2
ASL/English Interpreting Electives 3		
General Education: 2 Courses		
Total Credits		94

§ Course cannot be substituted for another course.

ASL/ENGLISH INTERPRETING ELECTIVES

Code	Title	Credits
ITP 284	Internship II	3
ITP 286	Practicum III	3

DEAF CULTURAL STUDIES ONE-YEAR CERTIFICATE

Minimum 46 credits. Students must meet certificate requirements.

Course of Study

The coursework listed below is required. The following is an example of a term-by-term breakdown.

		Credits
First Term		
ASL 160	Visual/Gestural Communication	2
ITP 111	Advanced ASL §	4
ITP 122	Discourse Analysis §	2
ITP 179	Field Experience I: Applied ASL	2
Deaf Studies Electives		6
Second Term		
ASL 230	Black Deaf Culture	4

ITP 123	Intercultural Communication for Interpreters §	4
ITP 181	Field Experience II: Applied ASL §	1
ITP 230	ASL Linguistics I §	3
Deaf Studies Electives		2
Third Term		
ASL 220	Black American Sign Language	3
ITP 231	ASL Linguistics II §	3
ITP 265	Introduction to Ethical Practices in Interpreting §	3
Deaf Studies Electives		7
Total Credits		46

§ Course contains Related Instruction and cannot be substituted with another course.

DEAF STUDIES ELECTIVES

Code	Title	Credits
AD 104	Multicultural Counseling	3
ASL 210	American Sign Language Literature	4
ASL 240	Introduction to the Deaf Community	4
ASL 260	Introduction to ASL/English Interpreting	3
ATH 103	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	4
ATH 104	Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology	4
ATH 160	Comparative Cultures	4
ATH 209	Culture, Change, and the Individual	4
ATH 230	Indigenous Cultures and Communities of Oregon	4
ATH 231	Indigenous Cultures and Communities of the Pacific Northwest	4
ATH 232	Indigenous Cultures and Communities of U.S. and Canada	4
BA 208	Introduction to Nonprofits & Philanthropy	4
BA 277	Professional Ethics in Business	4
CG 191	Exploring Identity and Diversity for College Success	4
CHLA 202	Intro to Chicano/Latinx Studies: Contemporary Issues	4
CHLA 203	Intro to Chicano/Latinx Studies: Making Culture	4
CHN 260	Chinese Culture	3
CJA 101	Cultural Diversity in Criminal Justice Professions	3
COMM 140	Introduction to Intercultural Communication	4
COMM 218	Interpersonal Communication (COMM214=COMM218=COMM218Z) Z	4
COMM 227	Nonverbal Communication	4
COMM 237	Gender and Communication	4
EC 216	Labor Markets: Economics of Gender, Race, and Work	4
ECE 120	Introduction to Early Education and Family Studies	3
ECE 124	Multicultural Practices: Exploring Our Views	3
ECE 224	Multicultural Practice: Curriculum & Implementation	3
ECE 234	Children with Special Needs in Early Childhood Education	3

ECE 236	Language and Literacy in Early Childhood Education	3
ED 291	Bilingual and ESL Strategies	3
ES 101	Introduction to Ethnic Studies	4
ES 214	Race and Racism	4
ES 250	Introduction to Black (Africana) Studies	4
ES 260	Decolonizing Education	4
ES 261	Applied Ethnic Studies I	4
ES 262	Applied Ethnic Studies II	4
HEC 226	Child Development	4
HUM 221	Leadership Development	4
HUS 101	Introduction to Human Services	3
HUS 104	Introduction to Trauma Informed Care	1
HUS 121	Family and Human Systems	3
ITP 213	ASL Literature for Interpreters	2
MTH 105	Math in Society (MTH105=MTH105Z) ^Z	4
NAS 201	Introduction to Native American Studies	4
PHL 202	Ethics	4
PHL 207	Ethics and Aging	4
PHL 209	Business Ethics	4
PL 250	Cultural Responsiveness in the Legal Field	2
PS 211	Peace and Conflict	4
PSY 101	Psychology and Human Relations	4
PSY 215	Human Development	4
PSY 216	Social Psychology	4
PSY 236	Psychology of Adult Development and Aging	4
PSY 240	Personal Awareness and Growth	4
SJ 210	Social Justice: Theory & Practice	4
SOC 205	Social Change	4
SOC 206	Social Problems	4
SOC 211	Peace and Conflict Studies	4
SOC 213	Diversity in the United States	4
SOC 214A	Illumination Project I: Interactive Social Justice Theater	4
SOC 214B	Illumination Project II: Interactive Social Justice Theater	4
SOC 215	Social Movements	4
SOC 218	Sociology of Gender	4
SPA 260A	Hispanic Culture	3
WS 101	Women's Studies	4
WS 201	Intercultural Women's Studies	4
WS 202	Women, Activism and Social Change	4
WS 210	Introduction to Queer Studies	4

Z
 This course is part of Oregon Common Course Numbering. The following courses are equivalent:
 COMM 214, COMM 218, and COMM 218Z
 MTH 105 and MTH 105Z