

ASL/ENGLISH INTERPRETING MAJOR (B.S.)

<https://manchester.unh.edu/program/bs/aslenglish-interpreting-major>

Description

The American Sign Language (ASL)/English Interpreting program at UNH Manchester is a specialized, in-depth program with a national reputation for quality. In 1999, the program became the first interpreting program in the country to be found in compliance with the National Interpreter Education Standards of the Conference of Interpreter Trainers (CIT). In 2007, the program became the first interpreting program in the nation to be accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Interpreter Education (CCIE), and, in 2017, the program became the first program to be re-accredited by CCIE. UNH Manchester also houses one of northern New England's most comprehensive collections of books and media materials on ASL/English Interpreting.

The program is guided by the premise that deaf people, as a linguistic minority, possess their own cultural values, literature, history, traditions, and social conventions. Interpretation requires bilingual and bicultural competence in spoken English and American Sign Language. The ASL/English Interpreting program at UNH Manchester provides students with a strong theoretical foundation as generalists in ASL/English Interpreting and helps prepare students for either state-level interpreter screening or national Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) interpreter certification, depending on students' skill level and experience.

Graduates may go on to pursue specialty areas in interpretation or related fields of study.

Students who complete the bachelor of science degree in ASL/English Interpreting graduate with a varied and flexible academic base. Interpreting requires skills such as sustained powers of concentration, versatility in dealing with a variety of people and content areas, fast-thinking and excellent communication skills in the respective languages. Students seeking to become interpreters receive a foundation in American Sign Language, Deaf culture, and the interpreting process, and their programs of study often include elective courses examining specific specialized settings such as Healthcare or on special topics such as theater and translation. Students also gain a thorough grounding in the liberal arts through the University's Discovery program.

Graduates of the ASL/English Interpreting program may pursue careers in ASL/English interpreting, deaf education, rehabilitation, health care, audiology, social work, counseling, and the media. The program provides students with a varied and flexible academic base. Graduates are prepared for further study in such fields as psychology, communication, linguistics, sociology, and anthropology.

Requirements

Students must complete 64 credits in the major, 40 credits in the University's Discovery program, and 24 credits in elective courses. Students must complete 64 credits in the major with a grade of C or better. Students who earn less than a C on a particular course may repeat that course only once. Students must achieve a GPA of 2.5 or better in major courses and must pass both ASL 532 American Sign Language IV and INTR 630 Consecutive Interpretation I with at least a B-

(or successfully demonstrate competence in American Sign Language and consecutive interpretation, respectively). Transfer students must complete a minimum of eight ASL/English Interpreting courses at UNH Manchester.

Required Courses

Code	Title	Credits
Language Courses		
ASL 435	American Sign Language I	4
ASL 436	American Sign Language II	4
ASL 531	American Sign Language III	4
ASL 532	American Sign Language IV	4
ASL 621	Advanced American Sign Language Discourse I	4
ASL 622	Advanced American Sign Language Discourse II	4
Culture and Linguistics Courses		
INTR 438	A Socio-cultural Perspective on the Deaf Community ¹	4
INTR 539	Comparative Linguistic Analysis for Interpreters	4
Interpreting Courses		
INTR 430	Introduction to Interpretation	4
INTR 439	Ethics and Professional Standards for Interpreters	4
INTR 540	Translation	4
INTR 630	Consecutive Interpretation I	4
INTR 636	Consecutive Interpretation II	4
INTR 732	Simultaneous Interpretation	4
INTR 734	Field Experience and Seminar I	4
INTR 735	Field Experience and Seminar II	4
Total Credits		64

¹ ASL/English Interpreting majors cannot use this course to fulfill the SS Discovery requirement.

Capstone Experience

The capstone experience in the bachelor of science degree program in ASL/English Interpreting is met by INTR 735 Field Experience and Seminar II, which is a senior-level course and the last in the sequence of courses required for the major. In addition, students participate in a research experience. Starting in INTR 636 Consecutive Interpretation II and continuing in INTR 732 Simultaneous Interpretation, students identify an area of interest, conduct a literature review, and design and complete a research project. At the end of INTR 732 Simultaneous Interpretation, they submit a completed paper and present on their findings. These courses meet the following two criteria of the capstone experience for this major:

1. the capstone synthesizes and applies disciplinary knowledge and skills
2. the capstone demonstrates emerging professional competencies.

For more information, contact Laurie Shaffer (laurie.shaffer@unh.edu), program director, or the UNH Manchester Office of Admissions (unhm.admissions@unh.edu) at (603) 641-4150.

Degree Plan

Sample Course Sequence

Course	Title	Credits
First Year		
Fall		
ASL 435	American Sign Language I	4
ENGL 401	First-Year Writing	4

INTR 438	A Socio-cultural Perspective on the Deaf Community	4
UMST 401	First Year Seminar	1
Discovery Course		4
Credits		17
Spring		
ASL 436	American Sign Language II	4
INTR 430	Introduction to Interpretation	4
Discovery Course		4
Quantitative Reasoning Course		4
Credits		16
Second Year		
Fall		
ASL 531	American Sign Language III	4
INTR 439	Ethics and Professional Standards for Interpreters	4
Discovery Course		4
Discovery Course		4
Credits		16
Spring		
ASL 532	American Sign Language IV	4
INTR 540	Translation	4
INTR 539	Comparative Linguistic Analysis for Interpreters	4
Discovery Course		4
Credits		16
Third Year		
Fall		
ASL 621	Advanced American Sign Language Discourse I	4
INTR 630	Consecutive Interpretation I	4
Discovery Course		4
Elective Course		4
Credits		16
Spring		
ASL 622	Advanced American Sign Language Discourse II	4
INTR 636	Consecutive Interpretation II	4
Discovery Course		4
Elective Course		4
Credits		16
Fourth Year		
Fall		
INTR 732	Simultaneous Interpretation	4
INTR 734	Field Experience and Seminar I	4
Elective Course		4
Elective Course		4
Credits		16
Spring		
INTR 735	Field Experience and Seminar II	4
Elective Course		4
Elective Course		4

Elective Course	4
Credits	16
Total Credits	129

Student Learning Outcomes

- Development of language competency in both American Sign Language and English to foster entry into the field of interpreting.
- Development of competencies needed for meaning transfer.
- Development of skills for self-assessment for process and product of interpreting.
- Development of decision -making skills and critical thinking to assess an interpreted situation and the source language, target language, setting and participants.