**Program Overview**

The Sign Language Interpreter/Transliterator AAS Degree program prepares individuals to work as interpreter transliterators facilitating and mediating communication between Deaf/Hard of Hearing/Deaf-Blind and hearing people. Interpreters must convey accurate messages, feelings and attitudes of participants, whether those messages are spoken or signed. To accomplish this, competency in English and in American Sign Language are necessary. A strong academic background, traits that demonstrate maturity, responsibility, flexibility, and the ability to work well under pressure, are assets.

The curriculum requires both general education courses as well as courses specifically related to the Deaf Community and interpreting. The program covers a variety of subject areas which include: ASL linguistics and language development, interpreting process theory and application, interpreter roles/responsibilities, interpreter’s Code of Professional Conduct, history of deaf people and their culture, and the historical evolution of the interpreting profession. Interpreting and Transliterating skills courses provide guided practice in developing the skills necessary to effectively interpret/transliterate. Students will experience a variety of learning environments including classroom work, laboratory practice and field placement. Students will be required to have both in-class and out-of-class experiences with members of the Deaf Community to further develop ASL fluency and cultural awareness.

**Career Opportunities**

Graduates will be qualified for careers as entry-level sign language interpreters with social service agencies, educational programs, community-based settings, or recreational situations. The employment outlook, due to accessibility legislation, has increased the need for interpreters.

Graduates will have opportunities to further their education and to specialize in their work through professional affiliations or by obtaining national certification. Graduates who plan to work in K-12 educational settings must hold a Provisional Certificate which allows them to become a practitioner for a maximum of two years or until they obtain national certification.

**Program Outcomes**

1. Graduates will have an understanding and knowledge about the theoretical, ethical, and practical foundations of the interpreting field needed to pass the NAD-RID National Interpreter Certification (NIC) written test.
2. Graduates will have the knowledge and skills to interpret between American Sign Language and English.
3. Graduates will have the knowledge and skills to transliterate between spoken English and a signed form of English.
4. Graduates will have the knowledge and skills to function as cross-cultural mediators in order to transmit and transfer culturally-based linguistic and non-linguistic information.
5. Graduates will be informed of the necessary employment knowledge, and professional behaviors that are requisite for employment as Sign Language Interpreters/Transliterators.
6. Graduates will sit for national certification within two years of graduation.

**Program Requirements**

- **Program Faculty**
  Linda Gill  
linda.gill@saintpaul.edu

**Special Features**

The Sign Language Interpreter/Transliterator Program is one of the original six interpreter programs in the United States. It was established in 1972.

**Program Requirements**

☐ Check off when completed

**Program Prerequisites**

- ASLS 1411 American Sign Language 1 (3 cr) with a grade of “C” or better
- ASLS 1412 American Sign Language 2 (3 cr) with a grade of “C” or better
- ASLS 1413 American Sign Language 3 (3 cr) with a combined GPA of 3.0 in ASL 3 & ASL 4
- ASLS 1414 American Sign Language 4 (3 cr) with a combined GPA of 3.0 in ASL 3 & ASL 4

**Pre-Core Program General Education Courses**

Prior to Official Acceptance into Program  
Cr

In addition to completing the Program Prerequisites above, the following two General Education courses must be completed, or in progress with, a “C” or better grade prior to submitting your Program Major Application called the Application to Sign Language Interpreter/Transliterator AAS Degree Major form.

☐ Goal 1: ENGL 1711 Composition  
4

☐ Goal 5: PSYC 1720 Psychology Throughout the Lifespan preferred  
3

(PSYC 1710 General Psychology accepted)

**Pre-Core General Education Requirements**  
7

**Core Courses**  
Cr

The following Core courses can only be taken after official acceptance into the Sign Language Interpreter/Transliterator program.

- ASLS 1420 ASL Linguistics  
4
- ASLS 1430 Classifiers  
3
- ASLS 1435 Deaf Studies/Culture  
3
- INTP 1440 Orientation to Interpreting  
3
- INTP 1442 English Grammar for Sign Language Interpreters  
2

2 credits may be taken from the following electives:

☐ ASLS 1415 American Sign Language 5  
3

[See back of this guide for Course Sequence and Transfer Opportunities]

**Program Start Dates**

- **Fall**

**Course Sequence**

The course sequence listed on the back of this guide is recommended but not required. Contact Program Faculty with questions.

Information is subject to change.  
This Program Requirements Guide is not a contract.
Sign Language Interpreter/Transliterator AAS DEGREE (continued)

Course Sequence
The following sequence is recommended for a full-time student. Students are encouraged to take a portion of their general education requirements in the summer term during their program in order to lessen their academic load during the school year.

Part-time day courses are available during the fall and spring of the first year of the 2-year program. The summer course between first and second year is day programming. The second year of the program must be taken full-time, days. Not all courses are offered each semester; a selection of courses are offered summer term.

Required General Education Courses to be taken prior, or in progress, to submitting Program Major Application:

Goal 1: ENGL 1711 Composition 1 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . This program has a program-specific admission process.

Admission requirements include completing the following course work before submitting the Program Major Application:

- American Sign Language 1 with a “C” or better
- American Sign Language 2 with a “C” or better
- American Sign Language 3 with a combined GPA of 3.0 in ASL 3 & ASL 4
- American Sign Language 4 with a combined GPA of 3.0 in ASL 3 & ASL 4
- ENGL 1711 Composition 1 (or equivalent) with a “C” or better
- PSYC 1720 Psychology Throughout the Lifespan preferred; PSYC 1710 General Psychology accepted. Course must be completed with a “C” or better

Program Major Application Form Submission
The Program Major Application form is called the “Application to Sign Language Interpreter/Transliterator AAS Degree Major” and is available on the program Web page. On the Program Major Application form, students verify satisfactory completion or courses in progress of the above requirements.

Above average skills on college assessment tests for reading and writing English are used to determine entry into the program.

Minimum Program Entry Requirements
Complete prerequisite ASL 1 and ASL 2 with grade of “C” or better, ASL 3 and ASL 4 with a combined GPA of 3.0. Complete prerequisite of Composition 1 (ENGL 1711) and Psychology Throughout the Lifespan (PSYC 1720) preferred; General Psychology (PSYC 1710) accepted. Course must be completed with “C” grade or better.

It is necessary for students in the Sign Language Interpreter/Transliterator Program to be able to process auditory and visual information.

Reading: Score of 78+ or grade of “C” or better in READ 0722
Writing: Score of 78+ on Reading Comprehension or grade of “C” or better in ENGL 0922
Arithmetic: Score of 52+ or grade of “C” or better in MATH 0745

Assessment Results and Prerequisites: Students admitted into Saint Paul College programs may need to complete additional courses based on assessment results and course prerequisite requirements. Certain MATH, READ, and ENGL courses have additional prerequisites.