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Undergraduate Studies Committee

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Dr. David Phillips — 2/10/2012
Date

ASLI Catalog Revisions:

Current Language:

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American Sign Language Interpreting (ASLI) Program Overview

The University of Houston American Sign Language Interpreting (ASLI) program is designed to prepare undergraduates to be certified Interpreters for the Deaf. Interpreters for the Deaf facilitate communication between the Deaf and typically hearing individuals and groups in a vast array of settings such as: schools, courtrooms, hospitals, television and video relay stations.

Courses are taught by both deaf and hearing instructors. Students interact with professional interpreters and the deaf community throughout their program of study in a variety of interpreting experiences. Graduates of the ASLI program must be proficient in both English and American Sign Language and will complete all University of Houston requirements for a Bachelor of Arts degree. The goal of the program is for graduates to be qualified to pass the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (national) and/or Board of Evaluation of Interpreters (Texas) certification exams and gain employment in a growing field of high demand.

Proposed Language:

American Sign Language Interpreting (ASLI) Program Overview

The University of Houston American Sign Language Interpreting (ASLI) program is designed to prepare undergraduates to be fluent in American Sign Language and to develop the skill and knowledge base needed to gain entry-level certification as a professional interpreter. Interpreters facilitate communication between Deaf and Hearing individuals in a vast array of settings such as: K-12 classrooms, post-secondary institutions, governmental agencies, public sector venues, courtrooms, medical venues, public service meetings, media outlets and video relay services (VRS telephone calls).

Students that have been successful in this profession possess the following requisite abilities:

- The ability to display typical hearing, vision and speech capabilities, manual dexterity, limb, face and head movements, dual limb coordination, and physical stamina);
- The ability to maintain and display the following cognitive skills: critical thinking, , selective attention, auditory and visual attention, mental stamina, short-term memory retrieval, information ordering, deduction of pattern inference, and fluent delivery of message details;
- Cultural and linguistic knowledge (knowledge and mastery of both spoken and written English, knowledge and fluency in American Sign Language, knowledge and fluency in Pidgin Sign English (PSE), understanding of norms and values of both the English-speaking community and the Deaf community); and
- Professional attributes (such as social perceptiveness, independence, interpersonal skills, adaptability in the workplace, emotional control and stability, problem-solving, conflict resolution, time management, ethical behavior).

{For more information, see the Texas Department of Rehabilitative Services – Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DARS-DHHS) Chapter 1.3 – Essential Functions of a BEI Certified Interpreter. Further information may also be obtained from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf – Standard Practice Paper “Professional Sign Language Interpreting”}

ASLI Language courses are taught by Deaf professors so that students experience a cultural and linguistic immersion in the classroom setting. ASLI Interpreting courses are taught by leaders in the field who have obtained the highest level of certification possible at the state and/or national level. Successful graduates of the ASLI program will be fluent in both English and American Sign Language and will complete all University of Houston requirements for a Bachelor of Arts degree. The goal of the program is for graduates to be qualified to pass the entry-level Board of Evaluation of Interpreters (state) certification exam, Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf exam (national), and/or the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) so as to gain employment in a growing field of high demand.

Current Language:

General Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in ASL Interpreter Program

To obtain a bachelor's degree in ASL Interpreting (ASLI) the following requirements must be completed in addition to university core requirements as well as the requirements of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Science for the Bachelor of Arts Degree:

The following 43 credits constitute the required courses for the major in ASLI: ASLI 2301, 2302, 1310, 2311, 2333, 3332, 3333, 3334, 4335, 4346, 4357, 4489; either ENGL 4300 or ASLI 4368 and either ENGL 4303 or PSYC 4397.

(Note: The language which follows these introductory paragraphs does not need to be revised).

Proposed Language:

General Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in ASL Interpreter Program

To obtain a bachelor's degree in ASL Interpreting (ASLI) the following requirements must be completed in addition to university core requirements as well as the requirements of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Science for the Bachelor of Arts Degree:

The following 43 credits constitute the required courses for the major in ASLI: ASLI 2301, 2302, 2333, 2335, 3330, 3333, 3334, 3360, 4335, 4346, 4368, 4397, 4489 and COMD 3301.