American Sign Language Interpretation

Bachelor of Science (BS)
WITH A MAJOR IN

American Sign Language Interpretation
A Bachelor of Science degree in American Sign Language (ASL) Interpretation will advance the field by preparing future ASL interpreter professionals. Our mission is to prepare entry-level practitioners who are capable of managing the intercultural demands and complex cognitive tasks for conveying dynamically equivalent messages between ASL and English. Upon successful completion of the degree students will demonstrate foundational competencies in the areas of language, understanding the culture of the Deaf community, and demonstrate professional behaviors for Sign Language Interpreters. Graduates will be eligible for state and national ASL Interpreter certification and/or a specialized state certification in the area of Tri-lingual Interpretation.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Students will demonstrate at an intermediate level the ability to formulate grammatically appropriate ASL to English and English to ASL interpretations.
2. Students will be able to successfully interpret consecutively and simultaneously at 110 words per minute entry level source material.
3. Students will demonstrate the skills necessary to work with consumers in educational and social service settings.
4. Students will develop cultural awareness by interacting with members of the Deaf community.
5. Students will possess the professional skills and knowledge required to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to specific interpreting situations as well as demonstrate respect for consumers.

Spanish Translation and Interpreting Concentration:

1. Students will learn the fundamental nature of Spanish translation, the formal and morphosyntactical differences between English and Spanish and practical translation procedures.
2. Students will apply the development of analytical skills, cultural literacy, linguistic competence, and professionalism to the field of Tri-lingual Interpretation (ASL/Spanish/English).
3. Students will be eligible for a specialized state certification in the area of Tri-lingual Interpretation.

Communication Studies Concentration:

1. Students will be able to demonstrate effective nonverbal and verbal presentational speaking abilities (including effective eye contact, vocal variety, and body movement, and clear organizational structure).
2. Students will be able to demonstrate interpersonal skills: active listening and perspective taking. Students will be able to ask appropriate questions, paraphrase content and emotions, and use appropriate nonverbal behaviors.

3. Students will be able to explain significant theories of Communication.

A - GENERAL EDUCATION CORE – 42 HOURS

See approved UTRGV core curriculum. Courses in the major may fulfill General Education Core requirements.

B – MAJOR REQUIREMENTS – 78 HOURS (63 advanced)

1 – Core Curriculum Courses - 0 hours
   THTF 1310 Theatre Appreciation*
   COMM 1315 Public Speaking*

2 – American Sign Language Core – 18 hours (9 advanced)
   ASLI 1310 American Sign Language I
   ASLI 1320 American Sign Language II
   ASLI 2310 American Sign Language III
   ASLI 3310 American Sign Language IV
   ASLI 3320 American Sign Language V
   ASLI 3323 Foundations of Deaf Culture

3 – American Sign Language Interpretation Foundation - 39 hours (39 advanced)
   ASLI 3325 Interpreting I
   ASLI 3330 Ethical Standards and Practices
   ASLI 3335 Comparative Linguistics
   ASLI 3340 Introduction to Classifiers
   ASLI 3345 Interpreting II
   ASLI 3350 American Sign Language Literature
   ASLI 3355 Interpreting Artistic Texts
   ASLI 3360 Diversity in the Deaf Community
   ASLI 4315 Interpreting III
   ASLI 4320 Interdisciplinary Interpreting
   ASLI 4325 Introduction to Interpreting Research
   ASLI 4330 Interpreting IV
   ASLI 4335 Interpreting Practicum

4 – Concentrations - 21 hours (15 advanced)
   a – Spanish Translation and Interpreting - 21 hours (15 advanced)
      SPAN 2313 Spanish for Bilinguals I
      SPAN 2315 Spanish for Bilinguals II
      SPAN 3300 Advanced Spanish Grammar and Composition I
      TRSP/SPAN 3341 Introduction to Spanish/English Translation
      TRSP/SPAN 3342 Advanced Spanish to English Translation
      TRSP/SPAN 3343 Advanced English to Spanish Translation
      TRSP/SPAN 4342 Interpreting
   b – Communication Studies - 21 hours (15 advanced)
      COMM 1311 Introduction to Communication
      COMM 1318 Interpersonal Communication
      COMM 3316 Intercultural Communication
COMM 3333 Theories of Communication  
COMM 3335 Advanced Public Speaking  
COMM 3345 Gender and Communications  
COMM 4309 Nonverbal Communication

*Major Required Core Curriculum Courses may be used to fulfill credit hours in the General Education Core and may not be counted twice.

**TOTAL CREDIT HOURS FOR GRADUATION – 120 HOURS**
**TOTAL ADVANCED HOURS – 63**

**ADMISSIONS, PROGRESSION, AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, if applicable:**

**Admission Requirements:**

1. Students are eligible to apply to the program when they have completed 45 semester credit hours towards the degree. The 45 semester credit hours must include the following courses and must be completed with a grade of ‘C’ or better to be officially admitted to the program:
   a. ASLI 1310
   b. ASLI 1320
   c. ASLI 2310
2. Students must complete 60 hours towards the degree to be officially admitted to the program.
3. The cumulative GPA for the 60 hours completed towards the degree must be 2.8. The GPA will be calculated using all institutional and transfer coursework applicable to the degree.
4. ASLI 3310 may be in progress at the time of application but must be completed with a grade of ‘C’ or better to be officially admitted to the program.

**Graduation Requirements**

1. Students must complete all ASLI major courses with a grade of ‘C’ or better.
2. Students must complete all concentration courses with a grade of ‘C’ or better.

**MINOR IN**

American Sign Language

**A – MINOR REQUIREMENTS – 18 HOURS (9 advanced)**

1 – American Sign Language Core – 18 hours (9 advanced)
   ASLI 1310 American Sign Language I
   ASLI 1320 American Sign Language II
   ASLI 2310 American Sign Language III
   ASLI 3310 American Sign Language IV
   ASLI 3320 American Sign Language V
   ASLI 3323 Foundations of Deaf Culture
American Sign Language Interpretation

**ASLI 1310** American Sign Language I  
This course is an introduction to the basic skills needed in the production and comprehension of American Sign Language (ASL). Topics include the manual alphabet, numbers, conversational skills, culturally appropriate behaviors, and ASL grammar.

**ASLI 1320** American Sign Language II  
This course enhances student’s skills in the production and comprehension of American Sign Language (ASL) and allows for the recognition and demonstration of more sophisticated grammatical features of ASL. This course increases fluency and accuracy in fingerspelling and numbers. This course will assist students in developing conversational ability. Prerequisite: ASLI 1310.

**ASLI 2310** American Sign Language III  
This course integrates and refines production and comprehension skills in American Sign Language (ASL), which includes the recognition of sociolinguistic variations. It includes grammar review and features extensive discussions. Sentences constructions will be reviewed and communicative competencies in ASL beyond the basic level will be addressed. Prerequisites: ASLI 1310 and ASLI 1320.

**ASLI 3310** American Sign Language IV  
This course is an integration of expressive and receptive skills in American Sign Language (ASL) with emphasis on literature, discourse styles, and contextualization at an intermediate level. It provides students with information on idiomatic/colloquial usages of signs as well as grammatical structures for complex sentences. Prerequisites: ASLI 1310, ASLI 1320, and ASLI 2310.

**ASLI 3320** American Sign Language V  
This course will provide proficiency in American Sign Language (ASL). It includes instruction in semantic and grammatical accurate and appropriate discourse strategies in a variety of communication contexts. Prerequisites: ASLI 1310, ASLI 1320, ASLI 2310, and ASLI 3310.

**ASLI 3323** Foundations of Deaf Culture  
This course provides a historical and contemporary perspective of American Deaf culture using a sociocultural model. Historical processes that formed the Deaf community in the United States will be examined. Topics addressed include: the history of the Deaf, the development of a cultural identity, cultural values, communication norms, diversity, and language. Prerequisite: ASLI 1310.

**ASLI 3325** Interpreting I  
This course introduces the skills necessary to achieve dynamic message equivalence when interpreting from American Sign Language (ASL) to English and English to ASL. An overview of the interpreting process and models of interpretation will be discussed. In addition, the course addresses the mental processes essential to effective interpretation. Guided practice is used to develop interpreting strategies such as memory retention and message analysis. Further, students are introduced to the Code of Professional Conduct of the professional interpreter. Prerequisites: ASLI 1310, ASLI 1320, ASLI 2310, ASLI 3310, ASLI 3323, and formal acceptance to the American Sign Language Interpretation Program.
**ASLI 3330 Ethical Standards and Practices** [3-0]
This course introduces students to how interpreters approach their work, and about the challenges mediating American Sign Language (ASL) and English. The interpreting process models, history, and professionalism of interpreting will be addressed. Emphasis will be placed on the roles, responsibilities, and ethics of interpreting in a variety of settings. Prerequisites: ASLI 1310, ASLI 1320, ASLI 2310, ASLI 3310, ASLI 3323, and formal acceptance to the American Sign Language Interpretation Program.

**ASLI 3335 Comparative Linguistics** [3-0]
This course examines the structural properties of American Sign Language (ASL) and covers its phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. The organization or linguistic aspects of ASL are studied to compare the differences between ASL and English. Prerequisites: ASLI 1310, ASLI 1320, ASLI 2310, ASLI 3310, ASLI 3323, and formal acceptance to the American Sign Language Interpretation Program.

**ASLI 3340 Introduction to Classifiers** [3-0]
This course will have students analyze semantic classifiers, size and shape specifiers (SASSs) and handling or instrument classifiers (HCLs or ICLs). The interaction of SASSs with movement roots to trace the size and shape of objects is examined, as well as the use of HCL handshapes to represent how objects are handled and the role they play in marking causation and agency. The complex morphology of classifiers is the focus of students' learning in this course, with examples of usage in formal and informal discourse. Prerequisites: ASLI 1310, ASLI 1320, ASLI 2310, ASLI 3310, ASLI 3323, and formal acceptance to the American Sign Language Interpretation Program.

**ASLI 3345 Interpreting II** [3-0]
This course is designed to provide students with an intensive study and practical application of consecutive interpreting monologues and dialogues from American Sign Language (ASL) to English and from English to ASL. Interpretation in this case begins after the source message is completed and allows for a controlled amount of time between the source and the interpretation. Topics include message analysis, attention, cultural mediation, and reducing interference from the source language. Prerequisites: ASLI 1310, ASLI 1320, ASLI 2310, ASLI 3310, ASLI 3320, ASLI 3323, ASLI 3325 (with a grade of 'C' or better), ASLI 3330, ASLI 3335, ASLI 3340 and formal acceptance to the American Sign Language Interpretation Program.

**ASLI 3350 ASL Literature** [3-0]
This course provides an overview of various genres in American Sign Language (ASL) narratives ranging from visual vernacular to fictional narratives. Students will analyze contents, themes and stylistic techniques of works done by various ASL literary artists. An analysis of Deaf cultural themes as expressed in short stories, poetry, drama, song, and humor will be addressed. Prerequisites: ASLI 1310, ASLI 1320, ASLI 2310, ASLI 3310, ASLI 3320, ASLI 3323, ASLI 3325, ASLI 3330, ASLI 3335, ASLI 3340 and formal acceptance to the American Sign Language Interpretation Program.

**ASLI 3355 Interpreting Artistic Texts** [3-0]
This course introduces the art of interpretation of artistic texts, including music, poetry, and drama. The emphasis is on incorporating the rhythm, fluidity, and beauty of American Sign Language (ASL) production without sacrificing conceptual accuracy or clarity. Topics for discussion will include interpreter placement, the rehearsal process, translation process, and technical consideration. Prerequisites: ASLI 1310, ASLI 1320, ASLI 2310, ASLI 3310, ASLI 3320, ASLI 3323, ASLI 3325, ASLI 3330, ASLI 3335, ASLI 3340 and formal acceptance to the American Sign Language Interpretation Program.
ASLI 3360 Diversity in the Deaf Community [3-0]
This course will provide theoretical and practical techniques for interpreting for diverse Deaf populations in a variety of settings. This course will focus on cultural issues, values, behaviors, identities and language of Deaf people from diverse backgrounds. Models of culturally appropriate interpretations for diverse Deaf consumers is discussed. Prerequisites: ASLI 1310, ASLI 1320, ASLI 2310, ASLI 3310, ASLI 3320, ASLI 3323, ASLI 3325, ASLI 3330, ASLI 3335, ASLI 3340 and formal acceptance to the American Sign Language Interpretation Program.

ASLI 4315 Interpreting III [3-0]
This course is designed to provide students with an intensive study and practical application of simultaneous interpreting monologues and dialogues from American Sign Language (ASL) to English and from English to ASL. Interpretation in this case begins before the source message is completed and continues while the source message continues. Topics include control of source language input, team interpreting, self-monitoring and repair, preparation, and providing feedback. Prerequisites: ASLI 1310, ASLI 1320, ASLI 2310, ASLI 3310, ASLI 3320, ASLI 3323, ASLI 3325, ASLI 3330, ASLI 3335, ASLI 3340, ASLI 3345 (with a grade of ‘C’ or better), ASLI 3350, ASLI 3355, ASLI 3360, and formal acceptance to the American Sign Language Interpretation Program.

ASLI 4320 Interdisciplinary Interpreting [3-0]
This course introduces students to professional interpreting work as it relates to a variety of settings (educational, social services, video relay, medical, legal, etc.). An emphasis on interpreting in the educational and social service settings is especially made to reflect entry-level professional interpreting work. Prerequisites: Prerequisites: ASLI 1310, ASLI 1320, ASLI 2310, ASLI 3310, ASLI 3320, ASLI 3323, ASLI 3325, ASLI 3330, ASLI 3335, ASLI 3340, ASLI 3345, ASLI 3350, ASLI 3355, ASLI 3360, and formal acceptance to the American Sign Language Interpretation Program.

ASLI 4325 Introduction to Interpreting Research [3-0]
This course will cover the different research traditions in linguistics, as well as the methodological issues involved in doing linguistic research. Students will learn how to access and summarize scholarly publications and how research findings are disseminated. Students will conduct a research project based on library resources or publicly available data, write up and present their findings. Students will also learn about the ethical conduct of research. Prerequisites: ASLI 1310, ASLI 1320, ASLI 2310, ASLI 3310, ASLI 3320, ASLI 3323, ASLI 3325, ASLI 3330, ASLI 3335, ASLI 3340, ASLI 3345, ASLI 3350, ASLI 3355, ASLI 3360, and formal acceptance to the American Sign Language Interpretation Program.

ASLI 4330 Interpreting IV [3-0]
This course is designed to expand students nuances of interpretation, including word choices, register, and affect. This course will prepare students for certification at the state and national levels. Prerequisites: ASLI 1310, ASLI 1320, ASLI 2310, ASLI 3310, ASLI 3320, ASLI 3323, ASLI 3325, ASLI 3330, ASLI 3335, ASLI 3340, ASLI 3345, ASLI 3350, ASLI 3355, ASLI 3360, ASLI 4315 (with a grade of ‘C’ or better), ASLI 4320, ASLI 4325, and formal acceptance to the American Sign Language Interpretation Program.
ASLI 4335 Interpreting Practicum [3-0]
This course will have students observe and perform some interpretation within the community under the supervision of certified professional interpreters. This course will prepare students for entering the interpreting field. Prerequisites: ASLI 1310, ASLI 1320, ASLI 2310, ASLI 3310, ASLI 3320, ASLI 3323, ASLI 3325, ASLI 3330, ASLI 3335, ASLI 3340, ASLI 3345, ASLI 3350, ASLI 3355, ASLI 3360, ASLI 4315 (with a grade of ‘C’ or better), ASLI 4320, ASLI 4325, and formal acceptance to the American Sign Language Interpretation Program.