

# Sign Language Interpreting at Nashville State

## Associate of Applied Science

Sign language interpreting is a rapidly expanding field with work in a variety of settings: education, business, community, medical, social services, mental health, legal, and performing arts.

With the primary goal of providing equal access of information for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Non-deaf individuals, it is essential that sign language interpreters be fluent in American Sign Language, English, and English-based signed systems. In addition, interpreters must possess a complete understanding of Deaf Culture, social & psychological dynamics, ethical considerations and effective cross-cultural interpretations in a variety of settings.

Upon completion, graduates will demonstrate:

- Competencies in American Sign Language and English interpretations and transliterations;
- A thorough understanding of the Registry of Interpreter for the Deaf Code of Ethics, theories, principles, and business practices related to the field of interpreting;
- Proficiency for the written and practical testing process for certification; and
- Readiness for entry-level work within the field.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class		Credits
<i>English</i>		
ENGL 1010	English Composition I . . . . .	3
SPCH 1010	Speech . . . . .	3
<i>Humanities Elective</i> . . . . . 3		
<i>Natural Sciences</i> . . . . . 3		
<i>Social Sciences Elective</i> . . . . . 3		
<i>Technical Core</i>		
ASL 1002	Fingerspelling . . . . .	2
ASL 1003	Introduction to Interpreting . . .	3
ASL 1010	Foundations in Deafness . . . . .	3
ASL 1110	American Sign Language I . . . . .	3
ASL 1120	American Sign Language II . . . . .	3
ASL 1130	American Sign Language III . . . . .	3
ASL 2110	Interactive Interpreting I . . . . .	3
ASL 2120	Interactive Interpreting II . . . . .	3
ASL 2210	Contact Signing I . . . . .	3
ASL 2220	Contact Signing II . . . . .	3
ASL 2300	American Sign Language IV . . . . .	3
ASL 2310	Sign-To-Voice I . . . . .	3
ASL 2320	Sign-To-Voice II . . . . .	3
ASL 2500	Interpreting Practicum . . . . .	3
ASL 2600	Interpreting Internship . . . . .	4
<i>Total Required – Associate’s Degree</i> . . . . .		60

### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**ASL 1002 FINGERSPELLING**  
Focuses on manual dexterity, techniques in expressive lexical output, receptive continuity, the use of ASL number systems, foreign phrases, and topical terminology. Improve both receptive and expressive fingerspelling.

**ASL 1003 INTRODUCTION TO INTERPRETING**  
Introduces basic theories, principles and practices of interpreting, with emphasis on the role & responsibilities of the interpreter, environments in which interpreters will be involved, and assessments within the profession. Professionalism in interpreting is stressed, especially through the observance of ethical standards.

**ASL 1010 FOUNDATIONS IN DEAFNESS**  
An overview of deafness, relevant definitions, etiology, history of deafness and deaf education, and the Deaf community/culture.

**ASL 1110 AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE I**  
An introduction to basic vocabulary and grammatical aspects of American Sign Language (ASL). Students are exposed to language development, current research, and resources pertaining to Deaf Culture. Student interaction with Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals is encouraged.

**ASL 1120 AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE II**  
A continuation of ASL 1110 with further vocabulary development and understanding of ASL grammar.  
*Prerequisite: ASL 1110*

**ASL 1130 AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE III**  
This course is founded on two principles: (1) increase students’ vocabulary; and (2) increase ability to communicate conversationally. This course is comprised of exposure to over 650 additional ASL vocabulary words, formal ASL structure, and conversational interactions. Both expressive and receptive skills are enhanced.  
*Prerequisite: ASL 1120*

**ASL 2300 AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE IV**  
An overview of specific terminology used in various settings: educational, medical, legal, and performance. In preparation for interpreting and transliterating environments, students utilize advanced receptive and expressive skills. *Prerequisite: ASL 1130*

**ASL 2110 INTERACTIVE INTERPRETING I**  
An introduction to the development of ASL interpreting. Includes vocabulary, text analysis, linguistic development, and study of the interpreting process.  
*Prerequisites: ASL 1003, ASL 1010, and ASL 1130*

**ASL 2120 INTERACTIVE INTERPRETING II**  
A continuation of ASL 2110, this course provides advanced techniques and principles for specific interpreting environments, and provides an opportunity for students to increase their ASL expressive skills.  
*Prerequisite: ASL 2110*

**ASL 2210 CONTACT SIGNING I**  
An introduction to various transliterating systems: Pidgin Signed English (PSE), Signing Exact English (SEE), & other coding systems. Students gain the ability to discriminate between ASL interpretations and varying degrees of English transliterations. Students learn to distinguish the appropriate context for utilizing each signed system.  
*Prerequisites: ASL 1003, ASL 1010, and ASL 1130*

**ASL 2220 CONTACT SIGNING II**  
A continuation of ASL 2210, this course furthers vocabulary and skill development in Contact Signing for various settings: educational, legal, medical, and performance. This course serves to advance transliterating skills in preparation for the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf: Certificate of Transliteration exam. *Prerequisite: ASL 2210*

**ASL 2310 SIGN-TO-VOICE I**  
An introduction to consecutive sign language interpreting (sign-to-voice, voice-to-sign). Primary emphasis includes a theoretical analysis of the interpreting process, reinforcement of prerequisite language, and development of the higher level of skills. *Prerequisites: ASL 1003, ASL 1010, and ASL 1130*

**ASL 2500 INTERPRETING PRACTICUM**  
An opportunity to observe the interpreting process in various professional work situations in order to gain awareness of community agencies & resources. Students will schedule regular observation hours; practicum experiences are to take place during school/work hours and require a minimum of four hours per week.  
*Prerequisites: ASL 1002, ASL 1003, and/or ASL 1130*

**ASL 2600 INTERPRETING INTERNSHIP**  
An opportunity for advanced level interpreting students to gain work experience, practical application of the role of professional service providers, and an introduction to the duties and responsibilities of interpreters in the community. The internship will be under the observation and supervision of experienced professional interpreters. This course will address specific vocabulary and ethical factors in a variety of interpreting settings.  
*Prerequisite: ASL 2500*

## At Nashville State, we have the tools for your success.

You will receive a high-quality education with programs that emphasize the skills needed for job success and contain a strong general education component. Nashville State is furnished with labs that use the latest equipment and technologies.

Nashville State offers convenient options to fit your busy lifestyles. Our selection of day, evening, and weekend classes should accommodate you. If you cannot attend classes at our main campus, web-based, video checkout, or our off-campus locations are available.

As a state college, Nashville State keeps its tuition affordable. Educational expenses can be earned back quickly once you are on the job.

Nashville State is a great place to start an education that you can finish at another school. Nearly 2,500 of our students are enrolled solely to earn college credits that transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

Over 45% of our students are 30 years old or older and enrolled to update job skills or to start a new career. You'll fit in whether you're 18 or 81.

Nashville State has a Career Employment Center that can help you locate career opportunities.

Nashville State features a Library that houses over 63,800 titles that you can access through WebCat, the on-line catalog.

Nashville State takes pride in its positive and supportive collegiate environment. Academic advising, career counseling, financial assistance, assistance for persons with disabilities, and student activities are just a few of the services that can make your college experience manageable.

*Note:* The primary purpose of this degree is to prepare students for employment immediately following graduation from Nashville State Community College. However, some students may wish to continue in a baccalaureate program either immediately or in the future. If you plan to transfer to a four-year program after leaving Nashville State Community College, consult the department chair for a specialized program of study. Failure to do so could result in a loss of credits in the transfer process.

For recommended full-time schedule and more information about the Sign Language Interpreting degree program at Nashville State, please contact

Forest Sponseller  
Sign Language Interpreting Program Coordinator  
615-353-3033  
[forest.sponseller@nsc.edu](mailto:forest.sponseller@nsc.edu)

or visit the Web site at  
[www.nsc.edu/catalog/dsign.html](http://www.nsc.edu/catalog/dsign.html)



For general information call  
615-353-3333  
800-272-7363  
120 White Bridge Road  
Nashville, TN 37209  
[www.nsc.edu](http://www.nsc.edu)

*over 13,500 students  
enrolled last year*



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# SIGN LANGUAGE

## Interpretation

