American Sign Language Instructor Programs

A Directory of Programs for Teachers of American Sign Language

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Services for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing

2301 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2301
(919) 874-2212 (VOICE)
(919) 874-2237 (TTY)
10/5/10
The listing of programs for teachers of American Sign Language is for informational purposes only. The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing does not endorse any particular program. This directory only verifies that the programs exist.

The following programs listed in alphabetical order prepare students to become teachers of American Sign Language (ASL). The programs provide students the opportunity to gain a deeper knowledge of ASL that traditional ASL/Deaf Studies programs do not provide.

There are many colleges and universities that have ASL and/or Deaf Studies programs. The majority of them, though, target their curriculum to students new to ASL knowledge of the language. Also, these programs are often partnered with interpreter education programs and put an emphasis on learning the language in order to communicate and/or interpret in ASL.

Programs that appear in this directory are uniquely designed with a comprehensive curriculum to produce graduates with knowledge and skills to teach ASL. The uniqueness of each program is found in how each one includes within its curriculum the ASL instructor component. Some programs produce graduates with teaching licenses to teach in K-12 programs and others offer courses that are limited to teaching practical and theoretical concepts as a foundation to becoming an instructor.

1. **Columbia University**
   Teachers College, Columbia University
   525 W 120th Street
   New York, New York  10027-6696
   Phone: (212) 678-3880 (V) ~ Fax: (212) 678-3813 (TTY)
   Email: rrosen@tc.edu

   **Program:** **Teaching of American Sign Language (ASL) as a Foreign Language – M.A.**

   (From the website)
   “The M.A. program in the Teaching of American Sign Language (ASL) as a Foreign Language provides students with foundations in linguistics and applied linguistics; anthropology; sociolinguistics; social and cognitive psychology; academic assessment, second language instructional design, curriculum development, and assessment; and research methodology, as they pertain to the language, community, and culture of persons who are Deaf or hard of hearing.”

   **Website:** [http://www.tc.edu/hbs/ASL/](http://www.tc.edu/hbs/ASL/)

2. **Gallaudet University**
   800 Florida Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20002
   Chair: Arlene B. Kelly, Ph.D.
   Contact: Kim Sexton
Programs:

A) ASL and Deaf Studies – B.A. and M.A.

(From the website)
“The Department of ASL and Deaf Studies gives students an opportunity to acquire an understanding of the deaf community as a part of human diversity. The courses are designed to prepare students to spend their professional or social lives after graduation, in the deaf community or, to make further contributions in a chosen academic discipline.”

Website:
http://deafstudies.gallaudet.edu/American_Sign_Language_and_Deaf_Studies.html

B) Sign Language Teaching Concentration – M.A.

(From the website)
“This concentration is designed to prepare students for a career in teaching sign languages. Students will be introduced to the key theoretical and methodological issues involved in sign language instruction, including curriculum development, assessment, and incorporating Deaf culture into the language curriculum. In addition, students will undertake an internship in which students will teach a sign language course on their own, under the supervision of a mentor. A portfolio is also required at the completion of the program which represents the culmination of students' academic performance. The Sign Language Teaching concentration may count toward a full year's worth of coursework in Gallaudet's Ph.D. in Linguistics program.”

Website:
http://deafstudies.gallaudet.edu/American_Sign_Language_and_Deaf_Studies/Graduate_Programs/MA_Deaf_Studies/Sign_Language_Teaching_Concentration.html

3. Lamar University
(409) 880-8137
P.O. BOX 10077
BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77710

Program: American Sign Language – B.A.

(From website)
"The department offers a Bachelor of Arts degree in American Sign Language (ASL). This degree program prepares students interested in teaching ASL in EC-12 programs. This degree also offers a track for students interested in pursuing sign language interpreting licensing."
4. McDaniel College

2 College Hill

Westminster, Maryland 21157

410-848-7000

Program: **Deaf Education/ ASL Specialist – M.A.**

(From Website)

“Graduates of this program fill various positions: Teachers of deaf students in elementary and secondary schools (deaf schools, charter schools, or mainstream programs), ASL Specialists working with deaf students whose first language is ASL, ASL Specialists working with deaf (or hearing) students whose second language is ASL or Literacy Specialists working with deaf students to enhance reading and writing skills in English.”

Website: [http://www.mcdaniel.edu/deaf_education.htm](http://www.mcdaniel.edu/deaf_education.htm)

5. National Technical Institute for the Deaf - NTID

Rochester Institute of Technology

One Lomb Memorial Drive

Rochester, NY 14623-5603

585-475-2411

Program: **Deaf Studies/American Sign Language – Certificate**

(From website)

“The deaf studies/American Sign Language certificate program offers deaf and hard-of-hearing students the opportunity to understand the deaf community as an entity unto itself and within the context of society as a whole. The program consists of two tracks: advocacy and community, or American Sign Language studies.

Both tracks address the historical, anthropological, linguistic, literary, artistic, and multicultural aspects of deaf people’s lives. Knowledge, skills, and abilities learned through this program of study include: understanding the structure of ASL and the application of linguistic principles to other languages (specifically English); enhancement of bilingual skills to improve communication; increased knowledge of deaf culture and deaf history; a heightened sense of self-concept, self-esteem, and self-confidence; improved presentation skills; and enhanced literacy and critical thinking skills.”

Website: [http://www.rit.edu/programs/program_detail.php?id=663](http://www.rit.edu/programs/program_detail.php?id=663)
6. **UNC Greensboro**  
Department of Specialized Education Services  
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
Ferguson Building, Suite 200B, PO Box 26170  
Greensboro, NC 27402-6170  
**VOICE** 336.334.5843  
**FAX** 336.256.0185  
**EMAIL** SES@uncg.edu

**Program:**  **American Sign Language Teacher Licensure Concentration – B.A.**

(From the website)  
“American Sign Language (ASL) is a visual language, distinct from English and other spoken languages, and from sign languages used in other countries. ASL has its own linguistic system with phonological, morphological, syntactic, and discourse structures. Along with many other states, North Carolina recognizes ASL as a modern foreign language and encourages public school systems to offer ASL for credit as a modern foreign language. The ASL Teacher Licensure concentration prepares highly qualified professionals to teach ASL as a second language from a cultural perspective to learners in regular education programs.”

**Website:** [http://www.uncg.edu/ses/under/asl.html](http://www.uncg.edu/ses/under/asl.html)

7. **University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee**  
P.O. Box 413, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd  
Milwaukee, WI 53201-0413  
(414) 229-1122

**Program:**  **American Sign Language Studies – B.S.**

(From the website)  
“Bachelor of Science in Education with a major focus in American Sign Language Studies. The ASL Degree is not meant to be a stand alone degree. This degree will provide a person with a foundation and a fluency in American Sign Language. It is a degree that pairs nicely with any other subject areas, for example: Interpreter Training Program and ASL Studies will provide an individual with a foundation and fluency in the language and how to interpret. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education, after obtaining the ASL Studies degree, will provide an individual with a foundation in the language in order to better teach deaf and hard of hearing children or American Sign Language Teacher Education, after obtaining ASL Studies degree, will provide an individual with a strong base of the language in order to teach others the language.”

8. **Utah Valley University**
   800 West University Parkway
   Orem, UT 84058
   (801) 863-INFO (4636)

**Program: ASL and Deaf Studies Education – B.A.**

(From the website)

“This four-year degree prepares students to teach ASL & Deaf Studies in secondary education (grades 7-12) settings. Students take major courses from the Languages department and licensure courses through the School of Education. This degree requires separate application to the School of Education.”

Website: [http://www.uvu.edu/lang/programs/asl/education.html](http://www.uvu.edu/lang/programs/asl/education.html)

9. **Western Oregon University**
   345 N. Monmouth Ave.
   Monmouth OR 97361
   503-838-8000(V/TTY)
   1-877-877-1593

**Program: American Sign Language Studies – B.A/B.S.**

(From the website)

**Mission**

“To prepare students with competencies in ASL linguistics, literature and Deaf culture; an understanding of the role of the sociolinguistic aspects of sign languages and Deaf communities; and the roles of Deaf history, Deaf culture and cultural diversity in American society.”

Website: [http://www.wou.edu/online_catalog/academic_programs/undergrad/degree_requirements.php?incurl=american_sign_language](http://www.wou.edu/online_catalog/academic_programs/undergrad/degree_requirements.php?incurl=american_sign_language)