

## **INTERPRETER TRAINING PROGRAM/SIGN LANGUAGE**

### **The Occupations**

- Interpreter for the Deaf
- Sign Language Interpreter

### **About the Occupations**

Sign language interpreters facilitate communication between individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and those who can hear. The interpreter is considered to be a bilingual/bicultural mediator in the communication exchange. Those engaged in conversation rely heavily on the skill, fluency, professionalism and ethical behavior of the interpreter. The interpreter is an integral part of the communication exchange.

Federal and state laws mandate equal access for Deaf people, and this includes the services of sign language interpreters. Passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act has had a significant impact on the field of interpreting. Employment opportunities continue to grow as more agencies, organizations and institutions continue to comply with this legislation.

Interpreters are employed in a variety of settings depending on their education, experience and areas of expertise. Possibilities include educational settings for Deaf students (K-12 and post-secondary); medical settings such as hospitals, rehabilitation facilities and mental health centers; legal settings such as police departments, attorneys' offices and the court system; religious settings; and a variety of community events, meetings, theaters, conventions, concerts and government settings.

### **Work Environment**

#### **Employers:**

- Health care facilities
- Educational institutions
- Government agencies
- Social service organizations
- Private corporations
- Music, television and theatrical production companies
- Self-employment

#### **Typical Schedule:**

- Many full-time employment opportunities nationwide
- Weekend/night work often available

## **Worker Portrait**

### **Skills and Aptitudes:**

- Fluent in English and American Sign Language (ASL)
- Able to interpret and transliterate
- Knows Deaf culture
- Uses discretion
- Excellent decision-making skills and personal integrity
- Works under pressure
- Professional, dependable and responsible
- Disciplined and self-motivated

### **Interests:**

- Pursues interpreting as a profession
- Interested in meeting and working with the Deaf community
- Enjoys working both independently and as a member of a professional team

# Requirements for the Interpreter Training Program

Waubonsee offers a full-time day Interpreter Training program. Students are eligible to register for Interpreter Training (ITP) courses when they have met the following criteria:

1. Completion of all Sign Language (SGN) courses with a grade of “C” or better and a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 or better in the SGN courses.
2. Acceptable scores on the Interpreter Training Program Admissions test. Contact Assessment Services for more information on the Interpreter Training Program Admissions test, scores and timelines (see Directory).
3. Completion of all SGN courses within the past 18 months. This requirement can only be waived by the associate dean for Communications, Humanities and Fine Arts or an interpreter training instructor for students who have documented interpreting experience.

To complete the Interpreter Training program with a certificate or a degree, students must meet the following criteria:

1. Satisfactory completion of all SGN and ITP courses. ITP courses must be completed in block or lock-step fashion.
2. Students may repeat a course only once. Contact the division of Communications, Humanities and Fine Arts for information on how to request permission to repeat a course for the third time.
3. All Interpreter Training courses must be taken within a three-year time frame. Exceptions can only be granted by the associate dean for Communications, Humanities and Fine Arts.
4. Satisfactory completion of all practicum hours.

**Scheduling note:** SGN courses are offered during the day, evenings and weekends, but not all courses are offered every semester. Since all SGN courses must be completed before entering any ITP courses, please consider this when scheduling.

For additional information, contact the associate dean for Communications, Humanities and Fine Arts (see Directory).



See Directory inside back cover.

# Interpreter Training Program

## Associate in Applied Science Degree

**(2190) major code**

The Interpreter Training Program is an associate in applied science degree and trains people to be sign language interpreters for the Deaf.

The Interpreter Training Program was the first program established in Illinois in 1975 and is currently one of six programs within the state. Waubensee's program provides students with the opportunity to become proficient in American Sign Language and gain knowledge of Deaf culture.

See "Requirements" on the previous page.

### First semester

	ENG 101	Freshman English I.....	3
	PSY 100	Introduction to Psychology .....	3
m	SGN 100	Orientation to Deafness.....	3
m	SGN 101	American Sign Language I.....	3
m	SGN 104	Signs of Everyday Use .....	3
m	SGN 105	Linguistics of ASL I .....	3
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>18</b>

### Second semester

	ENG 102	Freshman English II.....	3
m	SGN 102	American Sign Language II .....	3
m	SGN 106	Linguistics of ASL II .....	3
m	SGN 108	Conceptually Accurate Signed English.....	3
m	SGN 110	Introduction to American Deaf Culture .....	3
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>15</b>

### Third semester

**(All third-semester ITP courses must be taken concurrently.)**

	COM 100	Fund. of Speech Communication .....	3
m	ITP 200	Introduction to Interpreting.....	3
m	ITP 210	Etymology for Interpreters .....	3
m	ITP 211	Transliterating I .....	3
m	ITP 221	Interpreting I .....	3
m	ITP 231	Sign to Voice I .....	3
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>18</b>

### Fourth semester

**(All fourth-semester ITP courses must be taken concurrently and after successful completion of all third semester ITP courses.)**

m	ITP 212	Transliterating II.....	3
m	ITP 222	Topics in Interpreting .....	3
m	ITP 223	Interpreting II .....	3
m	ITP 230	Specialized Areas of Interpreting.....	3
m	ITP 232	Sign to Voice II .....	3
		Math or Physical and Life Sciences elective • .....	3
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>18</b>

### Fifth semester

m	ITP 290	The Interpreter as Practitioner.....	3
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3</b>

**TOTAL SEM HRS FOR DEGREE.....72**

m Major course requires minimum grade of C.

• See course choices listed on pages 66-67.

## Sign Language Certificate of Achievement (1420) major code

This certificate indicates completion of the fundamental sign language courses. Note also that the completion of these courses is a prerequisite for enrolling in the Interpreter Training certificate program.

Refer to the Interpreter Training admission requirements before completing the Sign Language Certificate.

### Course requirements

m	SGN	100	Orientation to Deafness.....	3
m	SGN	101	American Sign Language I.....	3
m	SGN	102	American Sign Language II.....	3
m	SGN	104	Signs of Everyday Use.....	3
m	SGN	105	Linguistics of ASL I.....	3
m	SGN	106	Linguistics of ASL II.....	3
m	SGN	108	Conceptually Accurate Signed English.....	3
m	SGN	110	Introduction to American Deaf Culture.....	3
<b>PROGRAM TOTAL .....</b>				<b>24</b>

m Major course requires minimum grade of C.

## Interpreter Training Program Certificate of Achievement (1350) major code

Students must successfully complete the Sign Language Certificate before enrolling in the following courses to achieve the Interpreter Training Program Certificate. Because sign language courses are prerequisites, this certificate will require two years for completion.

### Course requirements

m	ITP	200	Introduction to Interpreting.....	3
m	ITP	210	Etymology for Interpreters.....	3
m	ITP	211	Transliterating I.....	3
m	ITP	212	Transliterating II.....	3
m	ITP	221	Interpreting I.....	3
m	ITP	222	Topics in Interpreting.....	3
m	ITP	223	Interpreting II.....	3
m	ITP	230	Specialized Areas of Interpreting.....	3
m	ITP	231	Sign to Voice I.....	3
m	ITP	232	Sign to Voice II.....	3
m	ITP	290	The Interpreter as Practitioner.....	3
<b>PROGRAM TOTAL .....</b>				<b>33</b>

m Major course requires minimum grade of C.