

Madonna University

Sign Language Studies • College of Arts and Humanities

About the Program

The Sign Language Studies Department has been educating students in sign language and interpreting since 1975.

Overview

The SLS program offers two concentrations.

- Deaf Studies
- Interpreting

History/Mission

Emphasis is placed on the sociocultural aspects of American Deaf Culture and the right of Deaf children and adults to learn and use American Sign Language.

Unique Features

American Sign Language (ASL) is the language of the American Deaf Community. ASL has become a serious area of study for individuals interested in communicating and working with Deaf persons. The Sign Language Studies/Interpreting Department offers students the opportunity to develop ASL communication skills and an understanding of the language and its community. Interpreting courses are also offered for students interested in Sign Language interpretation. Second language teaching methods include: structural, functional and communicative approaches to language learning.

Sign Language Studies Major: Bachelor Degree (44-45 s.h.)

Required Core Courses

SLS 1000	Sign Language in Society	3 s.h.
SLS 1010	Beginning American Sign Language I	4 s.h.
SLS 1020	Beginning American Sign Language II	4 s.h.
SLS 2010	Intermediate American Sign Language I	4 s.h.
SLS 2020	Intermediate American Sign Language II	4 s.h.
SLS 2280	Fingerspelling I	1 s.h.
SLS 2290	Fingerspelling II	1 s.h.
SLS 3010	Advanced American Sign Language I	3 s.h.
SLS 3020	Advanced American Sign Language II	3 s.h.
SLS 4620	Sign Language Structure	4 s.h.
HUM 495*	Senior Seminar	1 s.h.
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		32 s.h.

*HUM 4950 required for all SLS majors pursuing Bachelor of Arts degrees.

Interpreting Concentration

Core Courses Plus:

SLS 4410	Fundamentals of Interpretation and Transliteration	4 s.h.
SLS 4450	Simultaneous Interpretation for Interpreters	3 s.h.
SLS 4610	Voice to Sign: Interpreting Lab	3 s.h.
SLS 4650	Contrastive Text Analysis: ASL and English For Interpreters	3 s.h.
SLS 4710	Selected Seminar Topics	1-4 s.h.
SLS 4720	Interpreting for Deaf-Blind People	1-4 s.h.
SLS 4750	Interpreting in Specialized Settings	3 s.h.
SLS 4810	Sign to Voice: Interpreting Lab	3 s.h.
SLS 4930	Field Experience	1-16 s.h.
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		22 s.h.

Deaf Studies Concentration

Core Courses plus a minimum

of 14 hours to be chosen from:

SLS 2110	Orientation of Deafness	3 s.h.
SLS 3310	Deaf Culture	3 s.h.
SLS 3450	Deafness and Community Resources	3 s.h.
SLS 4010	American Sign Language Discourse	3 s.h.
SLS 4020	American Sign Language Deaf Literature	3 s.h.
SLS 4030	ASL Drama	1-3 s.h.
SLS 4280	Simultaneous Communication	3 s.h.
SLS 4710	Selected Seminar	1 4 s.h.

Sign Language Studies Major: Associate Degree (31 s.h.)

Required Major Courses

SLS 1000	Sign Language in Society	3 s.h.
SLS 1010	Beginning American Sign Language I	4 s.h.
SLS 1020	Beginning American Sign Language II	4 s.h.
SLS 2010	Intermediate American Sign Language I	4 s.h.
SLS 2020	Intermediate American Sign Language II	4 s.h.
SLS 2280	Fingerspelling I	1 s.h.
SLS2290	Fingerspelling II	1 s.h.
SLS 3010	Advanced American Sign Language I	3 s.h.
SLS 3020	Advanced American Sign Language II	3 s.h.
SLS 4620	Sign Language Structure	4 s.h.
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		31 s.h.



For Admission Information

Office of Undergraduate
Admissions
Madonna University
36600 Schoolcraft Road
Livonia, MI 48150-1173
734/432-5339
800/852-4951, ext. 5339
Fax: 734/432-5424
web:www.madonna.edu
email:admissions@Madonna.edu

For Program Information

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See Advisor/Admission Office for current information.

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Sign Language Studies Minor (31 s.h.)

Required Minor Courses

SLS 1000	Sign Language in Society	3 s.h.
SLS 1010	Beginning American Sign Language I	4 s.h.
SLS 1020	Beginning American Sign Language II	4 s.h.
SLS 2010	Intermediate American Sign Language I	4 s.h.
SLS 2020	Intermediate American Sign Language II	4 s.h.
SLS 2280	Fingerspelling I	1 s.h.
SLS2290	Fingerspelling II	1 s.h.
SLS 3010	Advanced American Sign Language I	3 s.h.
SLS 3020	Advanced American Sign Language II	3 s.h.
SLS 4620	Sign Language Structure	4 s.h.
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		31 s.h.

Sign Language Studies Certificate of Achievement (34 s.h.)

Required Certificate Courses

SLS 1010	Communication Skills	3 s.h.
SLS 1000	Sign Language in Society	3 s.h.
SLS 1010	Beginning American Sign Language I	4 s.h.
SLS 1020	Beginning American Sign Language II	4 s.h.
SLS 2010	Intermediate American Sign Language I	4 s.h.
SLS 2020	Intermediate American Sign Language II	4 s.h.
SLS 2280	Fingerspelling I	1 s.h.
SLS 2290	Fingerspelling II	1 s.h.
SLS 3010	Advanced American Sign Language I	3 s.h.
SLS 3020	Advanced American Sign Language II	3 s.h.
SLS 4620	Sign Language Structure	4 s.h.
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		34 s.h.

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Students pursuing a bachelor's degree in Sign Language studies are encouraged to consider a second major as well. Such program planning will assist the student in developing career-related skills by integrating other majors with the SLS major. (See chart of Madonna University Majors).

Students can be admitted to the interpreter program by completing the SLS core and Meeting departmental language requirements. Students may also be admitted to the interpreting concentration if interested in interpreter upgrading or preparation for certification. Please direct all questions to the SLS/Interpreting department.

The Faculty

Kenneth Rust (B.S., Eastern Michigan University; M.A., Oakland University)

Michael Meldrum (B.S., Eastern Michigan University; M.A., Gallaudet University)

Sharon Meldrum (B.A., Gallaudet University; M.A., Eastern Michigan University)

Mary Wells Higgins (B.A., Oakland University; M.F.A., Eastern Michigan University)

Rebecca Shriner (CI, CT: B.Ed., Michigan State University; B.A., Madonna University)

David Stokes (A.A., Madonna University; B.S., Michigan State University; J.D., University of Detroit)

Debbie Mitre-Smith (B.A., Madonna University)

Daniel McDougall (B.A., Madonna University; M.A., Oakland University)

Delores F. Gariepy (B.A., Marygrove College; M.B.A., University of Michigan - Dearborn; B.A., Madonna University)

Mary Reo (B.A. Madonna University; M.S., McDaniel College)

Madonna University

Sign Language Studies • Your Questions Answered

What can I do with a degree in Sign Language?

Since 1975, Sign Language Studies graduates have found employment in various sectors of both private and public enterprise, as well as local and state government. Positions include those working in vocational rehabilitation, community service agencies, local school districts, gerontology, self employment as freelance interpreters, social service agencies, communication facilities, colleges and universities. To prepare for specific environments, students are encouraged to consider an additional major and/or minor in one of the more than 50 programs offered at Madonna University. A double major often enhances a student's employment potential upon graduation.

Is this an Interpreter Training Program?

The Sign Language Studies (SLS) department at Madonna University offers students an opportunity to develop American Sign Language (ASL) skills and provides an understanding of the language and its community. The SLS program offers two concentrations within the major, Interpreting and Deaf Studies.

Is there a demand for interpreters?

Recent changes in federal and state legislation and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) have increased career opportunities for those who work with the Deaf community. These changes reflect significantly on the need for interpreters. For more information on the federal and state legislation and (ADA) please call:
(800) 514-0301 (voice)
(800)514-0383 (TTY)

For questions concerning interpretation, contact Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf at (703)838-0030 or cmp@rid.org

Do I need a degree to interpret?

All working Michigan interpreters are required by law to hold a QA level (I, II, or III) or hold RID certification as of June 29th, 2007.

By 2008, an Associate degree will be required to apply for RID certification. In 2012, a Bachelor degree will be required for new applicants.

The Michigan legislature is currently considering an additional requirement for interpreters in the K-12 setting: the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA).

What about non-interpreting fields?

Deaf Studies Concentration:
Deaf Studies Concentration provides a solid base in American Sign Language (ASL) and related coursework for students pursuing additional studies in areas such as counseling and Deaf education, as well as a variety of human service areas. Students are encouraged to integrate another major or minor based on professional and/or personal academic and career goals.

The Certificate of Achievement:

The Certificate of Achievement is most frequently pursued by those with a post-degree status seeking to further their professional development and those desiring general, social communication skills in ASL. *At this time, there is no State teaching endorsement in Sign Language.*

Does Madonna University have a Deaf Education program?

Madonna University currently does not have a Deaf Education program. The Sign Language Studies program emphasizes the study of American Sign Language and Deaf culture. Madonna University's Education Department offers a variety of teacher education programs that are accredited by the National Council for

Accreditation of Teacher Education. Students have, in the past, elected to complete the requirements for an elementary or secondary teaching certificate while at the same time pursuing a planned program in Sign Language Studies. Once students have achieved practical teaching experience in a general educational setting, they are encouraged to obtain a Hearing Impaired Endorsement at the master's degree level.

Will I be professionally certified when I finish the program?

Certification of Sign Language interpreters and instructors is granted by outside national organizations. The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) is the national body for interpreters to obtain certification. The American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA) is the national body for teachers who would like to teach ASL. Our Sign Language Studies degree will lead to the opportunity for professional certification.

What is RID? What is certification?

RID is a national organization of interpreters which supports Sign Language interpreting and is concerned with conditions affecting employed interpreters. This is the national resource for you to contact regarding additional information on interpreter certification. For more information please contact:

The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID)
333 Commerce Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 838-0030 Voice
(703) 838-0459 TTY
(703) 838-0454 Fax

In some cases interpreter certification is subject to each individual state's policies. Please refer to your local RID chapter or interpreter agencies in your area.

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For Program Information

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Where do I find information on state laws?

To obtain information on Michigan laws and Michigan Quality Assurance screening concerning interpreters and interpreting it is recommended you write to:

Division of Deafness and Hard of Hearing
201 N. Washington Square, Suite 150
Box 12083
Lansing, Michigan 48901
(517) 335-6004 (V/TTY)
www.mcde-dodhh.org

How long will it take me to learn Sign Language?

The Sign Language Studies program is based on a spiraling curriculum. The rate at which a student completes the program varies according to each student's personal situation and individual characteristics such as motivation and learning styles.

This typical progression of courses for the completion of the SLS core is subject to student skill level, area of concentration, and departmental approval.

First Term:	SLS 1000 & 1010
Second Term:	SLS 1020
Third Term:	SLS 2010
Fourth Term:	SLS 2020
Fifth Term:	SLS 3010 & 2280
Sixth Term:	SLS 3020 & 2290
Seventh Term:	SLS 4620

Remember, Sign Language competence is influenced by student and program variables. Please see Sign Language Studies course descriptions for more details.

When does the next term begin?

In general, Fall Semester begins the day after Labor Day; Winter Semester begins the first full week of January; Spring/Summer Semester usually begins the first week of May. Exact dates are available in the current Madonna University Undergraduate Bulletin.

Are evening classes offered?

Sign Language in Society (SLS 1000) is the first required course in the core series. It is the prerequisite to all other Sign Language classes and is usually offered Mondays from 4 - 7 p.m. during Semesters I, II, & III (Fall, Winter, and Spring/Summer).

Beginning American Sign Language classes are generally offered on Mondays 7 - 10 p.m. in Fall and Winter, and 4 - 7 p.m. in Spring/Summer. The class schedule will address your questions about evening and day classes that are currently available.

What texts do we use?

The language courses use a combination of *Vista Signing Naturally* video texts and workbooks, *American Sign Language: A Teacher's Resource Text on Grammar and Culture* by Baker and Cokely, plus a wide variety of books, research articles, and guest speakers from the Deaf community.

What if I am deaf and want to attend Madonna?

Please contact the Office of Disability Resources at 734/432-5639 (voice) or 734/432-5643 (TTY). A staff member will assist you with information about support services for deaf students.

Prior Skills

If you feel your signing skills warrant an evaluation for placement, please request an evaluation form, and a representative from the SLS department will call you to schedule an appointment with a counselor to discuss this option.

The Faculty

Delores F. Gariepy (B.A., *Marygrove College*; M.B.A., *University of Michigan - Dearborn*; B.A., *Madonna University*)

Mary Wells Higgins (B.A., *Oakland University*; M.F.A., *Eastern Michigan University*)

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