

American Sign Language Interpreters aid communication between the hearing and non-hearing in a variety of settings such as theaters, court rooms, social service agencies, schools, religious institutions, mental health or medical facilities.

## What type of career can I have with this major?

Since this major is so practical and comprehensive, you will have a variety of excellent employment opportunities.

- American Sign Language Aide
- Community Services Assistant
- Interpreter
- Interpreter Coordinator/Scheduler
- Rehabilitation Assistant
- Self-Employed and Freelance Interpreter
- Social Services Aide
- Social Work Assistant
- Special Education Assistant
- Special Education Technician
- Teacher's Aide

## Where can I work?

This profession provides you with a choice of various work environments including government agencies, non-profit organizations, for-profit agencies, public and private companies, and firms.

- Clinics
- Colleges and Universities
- Correctional Institutions
- Courts
- Government Agencies
- Hospitals
- Law Enforcement Agencies
- Medical Industry
- Recreation Sites
- Rehabilitation Clinics
- Schools (K-12)
- Social Service Agencies
- Special Education
- Theatres
- Transportation Industry

## What type of professional organizations and resources are available in this industry?

There are many professional organizations that offer resources, articles, job opportunities, training and conference information. We suggest you visit each organization's website to gather more information and contacts in your field.

- American Consortium of Certified Interpreters
- Educational Interpreters Performance Assessment
- Educational Sign Skills Evaluation
- National Association of the Deaf
- National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators
- National Cued Speech Association
- Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
- San Diego County Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
- The Translators and Interpreters Guild

## What type of American Sign Language/Interpreting program does Mesa offer?

The American Sign Language (ASL)/Interpreting program at San Diego Mesa College focuses on the culture, community and philosophies of the deaf and hearing impaired. Skills taught in the program include finger spelling, transliteration and interpretation, voice-to-sign interpreting, sign-to-voice interpreting and technical sign language. Knowledge of these skills and tools will prepare students seeking an entry-level interpreting position upon graduation.

- Certificate of Achievement: American Sign Language – English Interpretation | American Sign Language Studies
- Associate in Arts: American Sign Language – English Interpretation | American Sign Language Studies

*See college catalog for program descriptions, course titles, and areas of emphasis.*

## Associates Degrees/Certificates

### Getting Started

- Step 1: [Application](#) - Start by completing the online application for admission  
 Step 2: [Orientation](#) - Complete the online New Student Orientation (Flash player required)  
 Step 3: [Assessment](#) - Visit the Assessment office to learn about English and math testing  
 Step 4: [Advisement](#) - Complete the online First Semester Planning Workshop  
 Step 5: [Registration](#) - Register for classes

### While You're Taking Classes

- |  |                      |                              |
|--|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Update your resume and craft a cover letter  | Attend job fairs     | Conduct industry research    |
| Look into volunteer/internship opportunities | Perform job searches | Think about transfer options |
- See the Transfer or Career Center for assistance*

## Transfer Options

### Getting Started

- 1) Join a professional ASL association as a student member
- 2) Map out where you want to transfer for your ASL Bachelor's degree

### Education Planning

#### Fall semester 1<sup>st</sup> year (1-15 units):

- 1) Attend transfer workshops
- 2) Review articulation agreements
- 3) Map general education (GE) requirements
- 4) Identify regionally accredited 4-year institutions to apply
- 5) Attend a Transfer Fair
- 6) Meet with a counselor

#### Spring semester 1<sup>st</sup> year (16-30 units):

- 1) Continue to attend transfer workshops
- 2) Check-in with a counselor to make sure your educational plan is on track
- 3) Seeking tutoring assistance in the academic skills center to keep your grades competitive

#### Fall semester 2<sup>nd</sup> year (31-45 units):

- 1) Submit admissions applications to 4-year institutions: Fall for CSU/UC; Early spring for private and out-of-state institutions
- 2) Identify deadlines and due dates for admissions transcripts and other documents

#### Spring semester 2<sup>nd</sup> year (46-60 units):

- 1) Identify deadlines and due dates for admissions transcripts and other documents
- 2) Submit your FAFSA between January 1<sup>st</sup>-March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 3) Turn in your deposit and registration forms to the institution you decide to attend.
- 4) Attend the transfer orientation event(s) at your new campus
- 5) Complete academic coursework and transfer!

### While You're Taking Classes

- Update your resume
- Prepare a cover letter
- Complete an internship in ASL
- Build your network
- Maintain a strong GPA
- Hold a leadership position in an ASL club/society
- Find a mentor
- Visit your Career Center as much as possible!

## CPA Licensing

