

College of Liberal Arts, Sciences, & Technologies

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL) AND DEAF STUDIES (DST)

Graduate Faculty:

Ben Bahan, Ph.D.; H-Dirksen L. Bauman, Ph.D. (*Director of M.A. program*); MJ Bienvenu, Ph.D. (*Chair*); E. Lynn Jacobowitz, Ph.D.; Arlene Kelly, Ph.D.; Mike Kemp, Ed.D.; Carolyn McCaskill, Ph.D.; Gene Mirus, M.A.

About the Department:

The Department of American Sign Language and Deaf Studies offers an M.A. degree that provides an interdisciplinary approach to the field of Deaf Studies. Students engage Deaf Studies through a critical exchange with related fields, including cultural studies, anthropology, history, literature, critical theory, linguistics, philosophy, critical pedagogy, and visual media production. Students complete the core curriculum in their first year of coursework, then select a specific area of concentration for their second year. These areas include Cultural Studies, Sign Language Teaching, and Deaf History. This degree will prepare students for employment and future study in signed languages instruction, humanities, social sciences, advocacy, and post-secondary education.

Cultural Studies Concentration

Students in this concentration gain a critical understanding of the position of the Deaf World within the context of human cultures by using a variety of theoretical approaches to the concepts of identity, ideology, resistance, and culture. Students will work a full academic year toward the completion of their Cultural Studies Research project which may take the form of a thesis or a creative, media related project. Research projects will be conducted under the guidance of faculty who instruct Cultural Studies Research Project I and II. Graduates of the Cultural Studies concentration will be prepared to teach Deaf Studies at the post-secondary level, enter fields of advocacy, and pursue further research and education in anthropology, cultural studies, sociolinguistics, disability studies, and critical theory.

Sign Language Teaching Concentration

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.

Deaf History Concentration

This concentration provides courses in history research methods and content, emphasizing how techniques of social and cultural history can be applied to the histories of deaf people and communities in the United States and Europe. The Deaf History Concentration requires a comprehensive examination as a means of assessing the student's familiarity with the field. Students may request a thesis project and defense in lieu of a comprehensive examination. These students will be guided in this project through the support of an advisor who will instruct the History Research Project I and History Research Project II courses. Graduates of the Deaf History concentration will be prepared to teach Deaf Studies at the post-secondary level, work in human service and archival related fields, and pursue further research and education in history, anthropology, historical linguistics, and disability studies. *For a list of faculty in the Deaf History concentration, see Graduate Faculty list under Government and History department listing in this section of this catalog.*

Admission Requirements for the M.A. Program in Deaf Studies

**Checklist of requirements for application to every
Gallaudet University graduate program:**

- Official transcripts of all undergraduate study, including evidence of having received a bachelor's degree from an accredited university. (Those applying during their final undergraduate year will be required to submit a final transcript after completion of their bachelor's degree and before enrolling in their first semester of graduate study.)
- Official transcripts of all graduate study.
- A minimum 3.0 grade point average (on a four-point scale) in all previous undergraduate and graduate study. (Occasionally, applicants with a GPA lower than 3.0 may be admitted conditionally upon the recommendation of the department.)
- An application fee of \$50.
- A completed graduate school application form.
- Goals statement.
- TOEFL scores for all international applicants.

Checklist of requirements specific to this program:

Are additional application materials required?

	Standardized Test Scores?	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	References?	Three letters
	Reference Citing Sign Language Skills?	No
	Special Essay?	No
	Resume?	No
	Writing Sample?	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Videotape of Signing?	Yes

Are there additional application requirements?

	On-Campus Interview?	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sign Language Evaluation?	Yes
	English Evaluation?	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Culture and Language Colloquium Required?	By recommendation of department

Are there additional background requirements?

	Prior Master's Degree?	No
	Recommended Undergraduate Major?	No
	Prerequisite Coursework (Required)?	No
	Standardized Testing Substitute for Prerequisite?	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recommended Prior Coursework?	Introduction to Deaf Culture Introduction to ASL Structure
	Prior Professional Experience?	No
	Prior Certification?	No

	Health Certification Requirements?	No
	Police or Other Background Check?	No

Application Deadlines and Program Scheduling

<input type="checkbox"/>	Last Date to Submit Completed Application?	February 15
<input type="checkbox"/>	First Date for Consideration of Application?	November 15
	Summer Admission Possible?	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fall Admission Possible?	Yes
	Winter Admission Possible?	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Part-time Study Possible?	Yes
	Summers-Only Study Possible?	No
	Weekend and Evening Study Possible?	No

Program of Study

Core Curriculum

All students admitted to the program must complete the following core courses with grades of B or higher.

Semester I (Fall)

- DST 701 Deaf Cultural Studies (3)
- DST 705 Sign and the Philosophy of Language (3)
- LIN 707 The Structure of Language: English and American Sign Language(3)
- ASL 709 ASL Media Production (3)

Semester II (Spring)

- DST 710 Literary Traditions in the Deaf Community (3)
- DST 712 Enforcing Normalcy: Deaf and Disability Studies (3)
- DST 714 Critical Pedagogy (3)
- HIS 731 History of the American Deaf Community (3)

Cultural Studies Concentration

Semester III (Fall)

- DST 733 Theory and Identity in Deaf Studies (3)
- DST 735 Deaf Visual Culture: Art, Theory and Resistance (3)
- DST 780 Cultural Studies Research Project I (3) Elective (3)

SWK 715 Disability Policy: Implications for Deaf and
Hard of Hearing Populations (3)
(Or ADM 810 in Semester IV)

Semester IV (Spring)

DST 750 Seminar in Deaf Cultural Studies (3)
DST 780 Cultural Studies Research Project II (3)
ADM 810 Public Policy and Persons with Disabilities (3)

Sign Language Teaching Concentration

Semester III (Fall)

ASL 741 Methods of Second Language Teaching (3)
ASL 743 Curriculum Development for Second
Language Instruction (3)
LIN 812 Language Learning by Adults (3)
Elective (3)

Semester IV (Spring)

ASL 760 Assessing Second Language Skills (3)
ASL 762 Seminar in Sign Language Teaching (3)
ASL 790 Sign Language Teaching Internship (3)

Deaf History Concentration

*Note: Actual offerings may change from semester to semester,
but the work load and number of course offerings will stay
the same.*

Semester III (Summer)

HIS 732 History of Mass Media and the Deaf
Community (3)
HIS 733 Topics in European Deaf History (3)
HIS 735 History of Disability in the United States (3)
HIS 755 Deaf Women's History (3)

Semester IV (Fall or Spring or both)

HIS 793 History Research Project I
HIS 794 History Research Project II
HIS 799 Independent Study

Semester V (Summer) (pick 2 from the following)

HIS 734 Deaf People in Hitler's Europe (3)
HIS 787 Introduction to Historical Methods
and Research (3)
HIS 795 Special Topics in History (3)

*With permission from the History advisor, you may choose one
from the following in lieu of a History course:*

DST 733 Theory and Identity in Deaf Studies (3)
DST 735 Deaf Visual Culture: Art, Theory, and
Resistance (3)
DST 750 Seminar in Deaf Cultural Studies (3)