

About Gallaudet University

GRADUATE STUDY AT GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

Welcome to graduate study at Gallaudet University! Gallaudet has long been acknowledged to be a leader in providing graduate education in a broad variety of fields relating to deaf and hard of hearing people, special education, and disability. Gallaudet is a living laboratory in which an exceptionally skilled and dedicated faculty, a special student body, and unequaled resources come together. Graduate study at Gallaudet University is not a study of them; it is a study of us. We are deaf; we are hearing; we are old; we are young; we are from every corner of the United States; we are from every part of the globe. We are richly diverse in our backgrounds, our interests, our abilities and disabilities—but we are at one in the pursuit of excellence in education for deaf and other special populations and the equalization of opportunities for all people. In no other single location will you find a comparable concentration of teaching, research, learning, and service activities on such a wide range of topics relevant to deaf people. The best known names in the field, the top researchers, the resources, the opportunities are all here at Gallaudet.

In the graduate programs of Gallaudet's Graduate School and Professional Programs and College of Liberal Arts, Sciences, and Technologies you will have the opportunity to work with leading individuals on any of a number of areas, including:

- early childhood development of deaf children
- international development
- multiculturalism and human services
- the cultural and linguistic aspects of sign language
- deaf studies
- state-of-the-art hearing technologies
- educational and psychological testing
- survey research
- the effects of technology on the deaf community
- interpretation
- leading change

And the Gallaudet experience is not limited to our 99 acres. When you come to Gallaudet, you have come to Washington, D.C., the nation's capital and a great academic center. In addition to being near the institutions of the Federal government, you will be close to many important associations that deal with issues of importance to deafness-related fields. These include the Council for Exceptional Children, the National Education Association, the American Psychological Association, the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, the National Association of State Directors of Special Education, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the Alexander Graham Bell Association, and the National Association of the Deaf, as well as dozens more. They are all at hand, within a brief drive or a few minutes on Washington's excellent Metro subway system.

In addition, Gallaudet University is a member of the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area. As a Gallaudet graduate student, you will have open to you the varied resources of American University, The Catholic University of America, Corcoran College of Art + Design, George Mason University, Georgetown University, The George Washington University, Howard University, Marymount University, National Defense Intelligence College, National Defense University, Southeastern University, Trinity University, the University of the District of Columbia, and the University of Maryland College Park.

Gallaudet's library contains the world's most complete collection of materials related to hearing loss and deaf people. If your needs extend beyond our campus resources, the Library of Congress—perhaps the world's greatest information depository—is only a short drive away, and the libraries of all the consortium universities are open to you as well.

At Gallaudet, we believe in learning by doing as well as by reading, listening, and observing. Many of our graduate programs offer outstanding opportunities for practicum and internship activities, and graduate assistantship activities. We also have excellent resources for getting involved in the

kinds of research you most want to pursue. We even have an internal grant fund, intended specifically for graduate students and faculty, that supports research projects in any of the many fields that brought you to Gallaudet.

Gallaudet is committed to providing students with the best educational experience possible. In any of the many fields related to deaf people, special education, rehabilitation, and disability, when you come to Gallaudet University, you have made the right choice.

CAMPUS LOCATION

Gallaudet’s campus is located in Washington, D.C., within a short bus ride of the U.S. Capitol and the other cultural amenities of the city. The 99-acre campus, called Kendall Green, is home to undergraduate and graduate programs, a number of research units, and the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center, a federally supported program for improving educational results for deaf and hard of hearing children across the nation. The Center includes the Kendall Demonstration Elementary School and the Model Secondary School for the Deaf.

Gallaudet University's mailing address is:

800 Florida Avenue, NE
 Washington, DC 20002-3695
 (202) 651-5000
www.gallaudet.edu

VISITING GALLAUDET

Visitors are welcome at Gallaudet University. The Visitors Center is located in the Edward Miner Gallaudet Building and can be reached by calling (202) 651-5050. The Center conducts tours of the campus Monday through Friday at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. by appointment. Student Tour Guides greet thousands of visitors annually. A wide variety of visitors tour the campus, including prospective undergraduate and graduate students and their families, school groups, sign language clubs, educators of deaf students, and international visitors. For more information about scheduling a tour or for directions to the campus, go to our website: <http://pr.gallaudet.edu/visitorscenter>.

HISTORY OF GALLAUDET

Gallaudet University had its beginnings in 1856 when Amos Kendall, postmaster general during the administration of President Andrew Jackson and a well-known journalist and philanthropist, established a school for deaf and blind children. He donated two acres of land and a house located on one corner of his estate in Northeast Washington. In 1857, he persuaded Congress to incorporate his Kendall School as the Columbia Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind. The President of the United States (then James Buchanan) was the school's patron. Congress also agreed to pay the expenses of poor children from the District of Columbia to attend the school.

Following Congress' action, Kendall hired Edward Miner Gallaudet to be superintendent of the institution. Gallaudet was the son of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, founder of the first school for deaf children in the United States. Both Gallaudets believed that a national college should be established for deaf students. In 1864, Congress, persuaded by Edward Miner Gallaudet and Amos Kendall, voted to authorize the Board of Directors of the Columbia Institution "to grant and confirm such degrees in the liberal arts and sciences . . . as are usually granted and conferred in Colleges."

President Abraham Lincoln signed the bill and became the first patron of the National Deaf Mute College. Edward Miner Gallaudet became president of both the institution and the college. In 1865, blind students attending the Columbia Institution were transferred to the Maryland School for the Blind, and the words "and the Blind" were dropped from the institution's title.

The first class to take the entire college course graduated in 1869. The diplomas of the three graduates were signed by President Ulysses S. Grant. Since that time, all Gallaudet diplomas have been signed by the President of the United States.

Women were first admitted to the college in 1887. In 1891, a graduate department was started to prepare hearing graduates of other colleges to become teachers of deaf children. At the request of the alumni, in 1894 the Board of Directors renamed the college Gallaudet College in honor of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet. The corporation (including Kendall School) continued to be known as the Columbia Institution until 1954 when Public Law 420 of the 83rd Congress changed the name of the entire institution to Gallaudet College. Public Law 420 also stated Congress' intent to continue adequate financial support of Gallaudet

and affirmed the importance of higher education for deaf people.

In 1957, Gallaudet was granted accreditation by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Every 10 years Gallaudet is reexamined by this association. Over the years, the campus and its facilities have grown to meet the needs of its students, and its programs have evolved to serve deaf and hard of hearing individuals nationally and internationally. In 1969, the Model Secondary School for the Deaf was established on Kendall Green to devise, develop, and test innovative and exemplary courses of study for deaf and hard of hearing high school students.

In 1970, Congress passed the Kendall Demonstration Elementary School Act (P.L. 91-587), which transformed the historic Kendall School into a demonstration elementary school with programs for students from birth through eighth grade, expanding its role to include research and dissemination. The Education of the Deaf Act in 1986 reauthorized KDES and MSSD and established a national commission to study the education of students who are deaf and hard of hearing across the United States. The Education of the Deaf Act Amendments of 1992 (P.L. 102-421) not only reauthorized KDES and MSSD but also mandated the schools to maintain exemplary elementary and secondary educational programs and to institute projects and activities for the primary purpose of developing, evaluating, and disseminating innovative curricula, materials, and instructional techniques and strategies. The Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center ("Clerc Center") encompasses KDES, MSSD, and other units devoted to the research, development, and dissemination functions mandated.

Congress acted during the 1985-86 academic year to recognize the growth and development that has been an integral part of Gallaudet's history. On August 4, 1986, President Ronald Reagan signed into law the Education of the Deaf Act of 1986, which bestowed university status upon Gallaudet.

On March 6, 1988, Gallaudet students began a demonstration, now known as the Deaf President Now (DPN) movement, to protest the hiring of a hearing president of the University. What began as a student protest grew into a civil rights movement for deaf people. Within less than a week, the hearing president, Dr. Elisabeth Zinser, resigned her post, and Dr. I. King Jordan was selected by the Board of Trustees as the University's first deaf president. The effects of DPN culminated in July 1990 with the

signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This historic legislation bans discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, public transportation, general services, accommodations, and telephone services.

In September 2005, President I. King Jordan announced his retirement and Gallaudet University began a search for a new president early in 2006. Results of the search process were that University provost, Dr. Jane K. Fernandes, was named president designate by the Board of Trustees in the May 2006. Protests against her appointment, involving students, faculty, staff, and alumni, began shortly thereafter. These protests continued into the fall, culminating in a three day closure of the campus, and the termination of Dr. Fernandes' appointment by the Board of Trustees in October. Following this termination, a new search was begun for an interim president, resulting in the appointment of Dr. Robert R. Davila, a well known figure in the higher education of deaf students. Dr. Davila began his tenure in January 2007.

ACCREDITATION

Gallaudet University is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104. (267-284-5000) The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

The Professional Education Programs Unit at Gallaudet University has been granted full accreditation by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). This NCATE unit includes the following graduate programs: M.S.W. in School Social Work, M.A. in Deaf Education, Ed.S. in Deaf Education, Ph.D. in Deaf Education, M.A. in School Counseling and Guidance; Psy.S. in School Psychology; Ed.S. in Change Leadership in Education, and Ph.D. in Special Education Administration.

The M.A. in Deaf Education program is approved by both the Council on Education of the Deaf (CED) and the District of Columbia's State Education Agency.

The doctoral program in Clinical Psychology is accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA). The specialist program in School Psychology is approved by both the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) and the District of Columbia's State Education Agency.

The M.S. program in Speech-Language Pathology and the clinical doctoral (Au.D.) program in Audiology are both accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

The M.A. programs in Mental Health Counseling and School Counseling & Guidance are fully accredited by the Council on the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Programs (CACREP). The M.A. in School Counseling & Guidance program is approved by the District of Columbia's State Education Agency.

The Social Work M.S.W. program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). The School Social Work specialization in the M.S.W. program is approved by the District of Columbia's State Education Agency.

The M.A. in Interpretation has been found to be in full compliance with the Interpreter Education Standards of the Conference of Interpreter Trainers (CIT).

GALLAUDET'S GOALS AND MISSION

Gallaudet's goals and beliefs are guided by its formal statements of mission, vision, credo, sign communication, and diversity.

The Gallaudet University Mission Statement (approved August 2007)

Gallaudet University, federally chartered in 1864, is a bilingual, diverse, multicultural institution of higher education that ensures the intellectual and professional advancement of deaf and hard of hearing individuals through American Sign Language and English. Gallaudet prepares its graduates for career opportunities in a highly competitive, technological, and rapidly changing world.

The Gallaudet University Vision Statement

During 1992-93, the Gallaudet community developed the following statement to guide program planning as the University moves into a new century:

The vibrant Gallaudet University of today is a tribute to our enduring heritage as an academic institution and cultural center. We are proud of our contributions to the success of generations of deaf and hard of hearing leaders who have served our nation and international community well. Today, as powerful new forces generate encompassing change in society against a backdrop of an increasingly diverse America and an increasingly interconnected world, we must redefine what the best education for deaf and hard of hearing students is. We must chart bold new directions to guide our actions as we move toward the 21st century and beyond:

Gallaudet students will experience those intellectual and practical challenges that lead to productive work, community service, and personal satisfaction.

The heart and soul of Gallaudet has been and must continue to be quality undergraduate education. We will challenge our students to work up to their abilities and challenge our faculty to teach innovatively as they demand exemplary academic work. At the same time, we will continue to maintain excellence in our pre-college, graduate, and continuing education programs, and encourage and support theoretical and applied research.

Learning at Gallaudet will occur not only in the classroom but also through many other academic and extracurricular activities.

Our definition of learning is inclusive. We will strive to be a community where everyone at every level teaches and learns, leads and supports. We will view all aspects of the daily interactions in our community together with organized activities as critical components of a liberal arts education.

Gallaudet will value and nurture the wealth of cultural, linguistic, and ethnic diversity which enriches our community.

Cherishing the different experiences each of us brings, we will use them to enhance learning. Valuing freedom of expression, we will view our entire community as a forum for the exchange of ideas and scholarly debate. Striving to be a model multicultural community, we will ensure that at Gallaudet, deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing people are able to communicate directly without barriers. Respect for all will be a hallmark of everything we do.

The Gallaudet University Credo

Gallaudet's Vision Statement expresses what the University aspires to become and achieve as the world's premier academic institution for deaf and hard of hearing people. Implicit in our vision are core values that serve as guiding principles for the way members of the campus community teach, study, work and live. The Gallaudet Credo identifies and realizes those core values.

The Gallaudet University campus community includes students, faculty, teachers and staff, all of whom share certain common goals and values that we all believe enrich our academic environment. The community's primary goal is to prepare students to be informed, literate, productive and responsible citizens. In pursuit of this goal, community members pledge to uphold the following values: We believe that education is a dominant influence on our lives and recognize that learning is a lifelong quest. Therefore we will practice academic and personal integrity and work to create a positive and welcoming environment that is open to the free exchange of ideas among members of our community.

We believe that every person should be treated with civility and that our community is strengthened by the broad diversity of its members. Therefore, we will promote and applaud behaviors that support the dignity of individuals

and groups and are respectful of others’ opinions. We will especially discourage behaviors and attitudes that disrespect the diversity of individuals and groups for any reason including religion, race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability, hearing status, or language and communication preference.

We believe that as members of the Gallaudet community we are the recipients of a proud and rich heritage, as well as contributors to and benefactors of our institution’s bright future. Therefore, we will strive to bring credit to our community and ensure that the institution flourishes and succeeds in its mission.

Sign Communication at Gallaudet University

In February 1995, Gallaudet University adopted the following statement about sign communication:

Since its inception as an institution of higher learning, Gallaudet University has endorsed direct visual communication among deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing members of the community. Clear, understandable signing is the responsibility of each of us. Because of the increasing social, cultural, and linguistic diversity of our students, we have reexamined and described what effective sign communication means at Gallaudet.

American Sign Language and English

Gallaudet University is a bilingual community in which both American Sign Language and English thrive. We recognize that in our campus community ASL and English coexist in complex ways; accordingly, this statement reflects the attitudes, philosophies, and realities of sign diversity on campus.

Sign Communication

The University is committed to creating a visual communication environment which best supports scholarship and the basic tenets of humanistic education. Three principles will be our guide as we work together to ensure that clear visual communication is the norm in every University unit and department.

Principle 1: At Gallaudet, effective sign communication supports education.

Each of us has the right and responsibility to understand and be understood. Clear and well-paced visual communication is a requirement for this learning community. Because Gallaudet is an institution of higher

education, the primary mission of which is to educate deaf and hard of hearing individuals, understanding the content we wish to convey must guide our actions more than the mode of communication.

Principle 2: Sign communication at Gallaudet will be inclusive, respectful, and flexible.

Our community will incorporate and respect ASL, and recognize that students, faculty members, and staff members may each have different visual communication needs. We will respect the sign language style of every individual and use whatever is necessary to communicate in a given situation. We will know and practice deaf/hearing communication etiquette so that public discourse, both formal and informal, is fully accessible.

Principle 3: Direct sign communication is central to the Gallaudet vision.

Since effective visual communication in this bilingual community is fundamental to the successful achievement of our academic mission, Gallaudet will develop the training and assessment programs necessary to ensure that all of us have the opportunity to become fluent signers. We will each be assertive and sincere in our efforts to attain sign language proficiency so that we can all communicate directly with each other.

Diversity Statement and Guidelines

Gallaudet University is a unique institution. Chartered by the United States Congress in 1864 with the mission of offering higher education to deaf and hard of hearing individuals, it has since become a global leader of a distinctive community. Gallaudet’s charge is even more important now. Just as the population of the nation has changed and continues to change, so too the population of deaf and hard of hearing individuals has changed and continues to change. Deafness is diverse and dynamic. Deaf and hard of hearing persons include people of all experiences and backgrounds.

Given its mission, Gallaudet University has a responsibility to an increasingly diverse deaf and hard of hearing population. Although every university must address diversity to survive, Gallaudet University must be prepared to do more. Deaf and hard of hearing individuals were long denied equal opportunity, solely because they were deaf or hard of hearing. Such injustice was often compounded

by further discrimination on the basis of race, gender, and other aspects of personal identity.

Building upon more than a century of traditions, Gallaudet University will take an active role in providing genuine equal opportunity to all deaf and hard of hearing persons. Gallaudet not only acknowledges the problems of the past and responds to the practical circumstances of the present, but also understands that our shared future is guided by basic principles of fairness, mutual respect, and commitment to each other. The University will continue to strive to make its ideals concrete. Gallaudet will reach out, in the United States and around the world, to deaf and hard of hearing persons everywhere. Deafness knows no borders.

Gallaudet University as an institution embraces diversity. Deaf and hard of hearing individuals are best served by reaching deeply and widely into their experiences. Just as they seek to be heard, so must we listen to those with different views and beliefs. A university especially has an obligation to be a place where all views can be shared freely and any belief can be discussed respectfully, allowing the exchange of ideas to flourish. Accordingly, Gallaudet will integrate diversity into every aspect of its operations. This statement on diversity is only part of an ongoing process in which all members of the university participate. Gallaudet's excellence and survival depends on respecting, honoring and using the wealth of its diversity. The guidelines below are designed to frame university-wide efforts on diversity.

Guidelines

The Gallaudet University Board of Trustees recognizes that the pursuit of excellence is intertwined with a commitment to diversity at all levels. To advance toward excellence with diversity, we instruct the administration to implement these guidelines which address three broad areas of action: 1) student diversity and learning; 2) faculty diversity and teaching, research and service and 3) a strong, safe and just campus community. The Board of Trustees expects that the administration will use these guidelines and will develop additional means of accomplishing these goals:

The Gallaudet student body will be reflective of the different ways that deaf and hard of hearing individuals live in society.

The University will actively seek to recruit students of color, and students with different communicative pursuits as well as other dimensions of diversity and will endeavor

to provide a supportive environment on campus for all students.

In the next century, deafness as a condition will change.

Our plans for the university cannot be limited to within our national borders; we must broaden our outlook to include deafness on a global scale, to welcome individuals from societies outside the US and around the world.

The education of young deaf and hard of hearing children has always been a part of Gallaudet University's mission.

Gallaudet will continue to promote students' fundamental skills including communication, literacy, science, mathematics and technology competence. Gallaudet is also committed to contributing to the well-being of our students, including strong emotional lives, an appreciation for cultural diversity, a sense of safety and justice, and support for their different life goals. The University is responsible for creating environments that nurture the development of young children into adults, and will recruit and support teachers whose skills make these environments possible.

Gallaudet faculty will be recruited on the basis of excellence in scholarship and teaching.

The University will endeavor to support the activities of faculty members toward this goal in a variety of ways, including but not limited to: creating post-doctoral fellowships for young deaf and hard of hearing scholars; providing institutional support for faculty research and for relationships with research bodies within and outside of the university; promoting professional development, including efforts to improve pedagogy; and recognizing academic service toward these goals.

Gallaudet's commitment to excellence and diversity should extend to the recruitment and retention of students, selection and professional development of faculty and administrators, and the development of a pool of potential deaf and hard of hearing candidates for faculty positions at Gallaudet and elsewhere.

Gallaudet recognizes that its students and faculty are supported by a broad network of staff and other support personnel, and will endeavor to promote diversity among all staff and support personnel, as their influence and reach into all aspects of the campus are broad and meaningful.



Gallaudet recognizes a responsibility to gather and evaluate data showing both the progress that has been made and the work that is still to be done.

Gallaudet will focus especially on generating data about the deaf and hard of hearing that does not exist elsewhere.

Equal Opportunity/Nondiscrimination

As an equal opportunity educational institution, Gallaudet encourages applications from racial and ethnic minorities. Gallaudet is committed to a barrier-free environment and provides students who have physical disabilities (in addition to hearing loss) the assistance they need to participate fully in campus programs and activities.