



Graduate Student Orientation

ASL/English Interpreting

Program Director

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Welcome to UNF!

Dear Graduate Students,

Congratulations on your admission to the University of North Florida's ASL/English Interpreting Program! We are delighted for you to join us and we hope the program offers the theoretical foundation and skill development you seek in your interpreting career. Allow me to give you a brief history of UNF's Interpreting programs.

In 2007, an undergraduate degree was implemented for students who graduated from two-year interpreting programs and who wished to continue their studies toward the bachelor's degree. This program was designed specifically to meet the need for interpreters to have the degree prior to the RID certification evaluation requirement in 2012. UNF has an official Articulation Agreement with Florida State College at Jacksonville whereby students may achieve a smooth transition from their interpreting associate's degree into the BS at UNF. Our curricula and methodology are aligned and we work very closely with each other to achieve this seamless transfer. UNF also accepts other two-year interpreting graduates on a case-by-case basis and admits students to this onsite program only in the fall semesters.

The same year we started the BS degree, we received requests for a master's degree that was accessible for students at a distance. In response to the demand, we developed a Program of Study that would meet the needs of advanced interpreters and could be started as immediately as possible. For this purpose, we elected to add the ASL/English Interpreting concentration under a Special Education degree on a trial basis and UNF's Board of Trustees approved it in 2009. We started with five dedicated students, and in this short time we grew to 38 in Fall 2010, when we graduated our first four students. This growth is attributed in part to the fact that students within the 16-state southeast region are now eligible to attend the program for in-state tuition (although Virginia has opted not to participate in the Academic Common Market program).

This growth is a true indication of the need for such a program and we will soon be forwarding a proposal to make the concentration a stand-alone degree option. This will not affect your Program of Study, but if approved by the Florida Board of Governors during your tenure in the program, course names may change and your diploma will read differently.

Not only are we growing in terms of the student body, we are also growing in faculty. This development comes at a time of economic hardship within the state's university system, the state, and the country as a whole, and we are fortunate to have such support from the administration for the new graduate program. In January 2011, Dr. Janice Humphrey, joined our faculty and beginning in Fall 2011, Dr. Nathie Marbury will join us as adjunct instructor.

The distance delivery model used by the program is called "hybrid" because there are some onsite mandatory components. Each semester, usually in the skills-based courses, you will spend a few days in Jacksonville to supplement your online coursework (one weekend during spring and fall semesters, 4 days in summer). This allows you to develop working relationships with other students and faculty while honing your skills in an intensive learning environment. Keep in mind that UNF is an RID Supersite, so if you would like to arrange testing while you are in town, contact ridsupersite@unf.edu. UNF students are given top priority when it comes to scheduling an RID test.

Finally, I would like to affirm that the ASL/Interpreting programs at UNF abide by the *National Interpreter Education Standards* as set forth by the *Commission on Collegiate Interpreter Education*. Our program goal is to undergo the

self-study review for CCIE accreditation after we have several graduating classes. We also try to make the courses research-based and introduce the latest developments in spoken as well as signed language interpreting from the international perspective. The Interpreting program has an official agreement with Lessius University College in Antwerp, Belgium to continue our joint research on the topic of interpreting student aptitude. We encourage graduate students to get involved in research, proposal development, and presentation of their studies and to take advantage of international opportunities as they arise. In Spring 2010, five graduate students presented their Service-Learning projects at the *Gulf-South Summit on Service-Learning and Community Engagement* (Athens, GA), and one student presented her completed research project at *Mid-South Educational Research Association Annual Meeting* (Mobile, AL) in November 2010. In 2009, seven UNF students studied in Slovenia and Austria's translation libraries and attended a private session hosted by the lead interpreter at the UN in Vienna as part of their *Applied Research in Interpreting* course. We have been funded again to take graduate students on this "transformational learning opportunity" during Summer 2011 and Summer 2012. These are just a few of the very exciting developments at the University of North Florida!

I am honored to serve as Program Director of these vibrant and growing programs and I hope you will contact me with any questions, concerns, or suggestions as you work your way through the coursework. As we always say, UNF...no place like this, no one like you!

Warm regards,

Dr. Shaw

Technology Orientation

There are several technology requirements that should be addressed prior to starting in the program. By reviewing these websites and working through the tutorials, you will prepare for the semester before classes actually start. Naturally, an online program requires extensive use of technology. It is recommended that you have an up-to-date computer that is equipped with a camera and microphone. Even if your camera is built into the computer, there are times when it will be necessary for the source text to be recorded instead of you, thus the need for an additional webcam or digital recorder. A Flip Camera is highly recommended. You will need access to high speed internet on a daily basis and a back-up plan to use a different computer should your system encounter difficulties. All courses use *Blackboard 9* as a central site to keep course documents, conduct discussions, post assignments, turn in assignments, communicate with each other, and maintain the grade book, which is available to you at all times. When you register for a class, you will automatically be put in that course's Blackboard "shell". Professors decide when to make the course available to students while they are building it, so if you don't see your course listed in your Blackboard course list, contact the professor to verify that you are indeed enrolled.

Within Blackboard, some professors will use the virtual classroom, *Illuminate Live!* This allows a class to meet synchronously or asynchronously through recorded sessions that students may attend at their own convenience. *Illuminate* interaction requires use of your camera and microphone and allows faculty and students to interact around the lesson content.

Following admission, all students are assigned an identification number that begins with an "N". This number and your password are used for all technology services at UNF: to access your accounts in MyWings, login to Blackboard, and login to the library from a remote site. When MyWings is "down" or there is maintenance on the system, you probably will not be able to access Blackboard or email through MyWings; however, you may enter from <http://blackboard.unf.edu> and <http://webaccess.unf.edu> respectively.

NOTE ABOUT TECHNOLOGY AND DUE DATES: Students are cautioned against waiting until the last minute to submit an online assignment through Blackboard. Unless there is a documented Blackboard outage notice issued by the University, professors are not obliged to accept late assignments. Due dates typically represent the last moment that an assignment can be submitted before the system blocks submissions. Of course, assignments may be turned in earlier than the deadline.

Information Technology Support

http://www.unf.edu/anf/its/Info_for_Students.aspx

UNF offers excellent technical support to its students. Print this page for future reference in case you are having difficulty accessing Blackboard or having technical problems. A good rule of thumb is to spend a maximum of 10 minutes trying to solve the problem alone and then call for help. Never hesitate to call the Help Desk (904.620.HELP). Please direct technology questions to the Help Desk, not your course professor.

During the first two weeks of the semester, the Help Desk provides tutorial sessions that can help you. http://www.unf.edu/anf/its/training/Student_Blackboard_Email_File_Storage_and_myWings_Training.aspx

Delicious

Create a Delicious account to add all the great materials you will have access to during your courses. This is a social bookmarking system that others can access (if you allow them) and you can share your favorite sites with each other...and your bookmarks are always there when using different computers.

<http://delicious.com/> Use this website to make sure you have all the right equipment and software configured to use

Illuminate Live!

Each of your courses in Blackboard has the capability to use Illuminate, however, not all faculty will use it. Those who do will usually have some ice-breaker sessions to familiarize students with its use. To become familiar with the software, work through the demonstrations in Step 3.

<http://www.illuminate.com/Support/?id=62>

YouTube

All students should have a YouTube account and become familiar with how to upload and share a private video. Students are not required to post public videos at any time. There are numerous guides available from Google, including this one: <http://www.google.com/support/youtube/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=157177>

Contacting Faculty

In an online program, it is more preferable to email than to phone faculty members. Students are responsible for checking UNF email on a regular basis. This is how the university, Blackboard course lists, and your professors stay in contact with you. It is possible to have UNF email pushed to your preferred email account by making this change in MyWings. On occasion, a faculty member may provide students with a cell phone contact number. It is important to keep all personal information up-to-date within MyWings.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Program Hours

The program consists of 43 graduate credit hours, which includes a 6-credit Internship as the capstone course. Nationally certified interpreters (CSC, CI/CT, NIC, NAD V—not EIPA) are exempt from Internship.

Transfer hours

Students may transfer up to 20% of the total program hours, which amounts to 7-8 credit hours.

Course Substitutions

OPTION A: Students interested in following through with research proposals developed during *Applied Research in Interpreting* may take *Independent Study: Mentored Research* in lieu of *Cross Cultural Communication*. This is a mentored independent study during which the student directs submission (and approval) of the IRB proposal, data collection, data analysis, and authoring a final report. It is possible this could extend beyond one semester, in which case the student will receive an "I" until the work is complete. For this reason, it is NOT advisable to attempt this in the last semester. This option is offered on a limited basis and depends upon faculty availability.

OPTION B: *Cross Cultural Communication* may be substituted for a course of interest that is related to interpreting or indirect application to interpreting. Examples are courses in Adult Education (for students interested in teaching interpreting), Child Development (for students interested in working with young children), Cultural Anthropology, Gender Studies, Sociology, Psychology, and Linguistics. Approval for a course substitution must be approved by the Program Director prior to taking the course.

Core Requirements: Foundations			Course Delivery
EDF	6607	3.0 EDUCATION IN AMERICA*	Online or transfer
EDF	6480	3.0 FOUND ED RESEARCH*	Online or transfer

* These courses are offered online on demand. Plan to take when available.

Major Requirements: Content Specialization			
INT	5457	3.0 INTERP. FOR DIVERSE POPULATIONS	Online + 1 weekend
INT	6911	3.0 APPL. RESEARCH IN INTERPRETING	Online
INT	5590	4.0 SERVICE LEARNING	Online + project (your area)
EEX	5595	3.0 INTERPRETING IN HEALTHCARE	Online + 1 weekend
EEX	5991	3.0 INT PROCESS/SKILL DEV II: Mentoring	Online + 1 weekends
INT	6276	3.0 ADV. INT PROC/SKILL DEV I: Interpreting Process Pedagogy	Online + 1 weekends
INT	6277	3.0 ADV. INT PROC/SKILL DEV II: Mental Health Interpreting	Online + summer institute
ASL	6619	3.0 ADV. ASL CONVERSATION	Summer institute (4-5 days)
TSL	6525	3.0 CROSS CULT. COMM/KNOW	Online
INT	6932	3.0 SPECIAL TOPICS: Legal Interpreting	Online
INT	6944	6.0 INTERNSHIP*	Field Placement/Online Seminars

*Students with RID NIC, CI/CT, CSC or NAD Level V are exempt from Internship.

CONTACTS

Within the Department of Exceptional Student and Deaf Education

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Orientation to the Graduate School

<http://www.unf.edu/graduatestudies/orientation/index.html>