

Sign Language Studies

Degree: A.A. Sign Lang. Studies
A.A. Sign Lang. Studies-Interpreting
Certificates: Sign Lang. Studies-Human Services
Sign Lang. Studies - Interpreting
Sign Lang. Studies - Business

Area: Humanities
Dean: Dr. Bruce Kinghorn
Phone: (916) 484-8653
Counseling: (916) 484-8572

The ARC Program

American River College's Sign Language Program was established over 25 years ago and is one of only 12 postsecondary programs in California that grant degrees in sign language studies and/or interpreting.

The Sign Language Studies Program begins with a two-year study of a second language, American Sign Language (ASL), the primary language of Deaf people. This language foundation will help to prepare you to communicate and work with deaf and hard of hearing people. The degree or certificate provides sequential course work leading to employment in the fields of education, human services or business at the paraprofessional level.

Courses offered include four semesters of ASL, as well as studies in interaction with deaf people; while learning a second language, you will also study the deaf community and the culture of deaf people.

Upon completion of certain sign language courses, you may enroll in the Interpreting Training Program, a more advanced degree or certificate program. After an additional four semesters of study, students earn an interpreting degree or certificate.

Other Sign Language Studies majors transfer to universities where they concentrate on careers such as teaching, social work, counseling, etc. Others may opt for employment as a teacher's aide, independent living attendant or dormitory houseparent.

Career Opportunities

Because of the complex and diverse needs of deaf and hard of hearing people, opportunities for employment are varied.

There is a great need for skilled and qualified sign language interpreters in educational and social service agencies, and students have been able to develop career-track positions that provide services to the deaf community.

As our interpreting students begin their careers they can pursue specialization such as educational, social services, legal, employment and medical. To

find out more about the field of sign language interpreting, visit the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf web site at www.RID.org.

Sign Language Studies

Requirements for Degree Major: 40 units

**Core requirements:
(for degree and certificate)** 25 units

SILA 305, 306, 315, 316, 330, 332, 498

Concentration Requirements: 15 units

Business or Human Services Option only (see below)

Recommended Electives

ENGWR 300, SILA 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372 (up to 3 units)

General Education Graduation Requirement:

Students must also complete the general education graduation requirements for an A.A. degree. See general education requirements.

Sign Language Studies/Business Certificate

Requirements for Certificate: 40 units

Core Requirements (see above) 25 units

HSER 300	3
MGMT 300 or 362	3
MGMT 360	3
MGMT 372	3
PSYC 300 or 305	3

Sign Language Studies/Human Services Certificate

Requirements for Certificate: 40 units

Core Requirements (see above) 25 units

HSER 300	3
PSYC 300 or 305	3
PSYC 370	3

and 6 units from the following:

ENGED 320; PSYC 340; HSER330/PSYC 365; ECE 312/PSYC 372

Interpreter Training Program

Requirements for Degree Major: **54 units**

Core requirements: **25 units**

SILA 305, 306, 315, 316, 330, 332, 498

Concentration Requirements: **29 units**

SILA 320, 322; INTRP 300, 305, 307, 310, 312, 320, 325, 498
Select 4 units from INTRP 314, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348

General Education Graduation Requirements

Students must also complete the general education graduation requirements for an A.A. degree. See general education requirements.

Interpreting Certificate

Requirements for Certificate: **54 units**

Core requirements for Sign Language Studies (25 units - see above) and

SILA 320, 322; INTRP 300, 305, 307, 310, 312, 320, 325, 498

Select 4 units from INTRP 314, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348

The Interpreting Certificate cannot be completed in one year.

Sign Language Interpreting

INTRP 300 ITP: Ethics and Professional Standards of Interpreting 3 Units

Formerly: SILA 10

Prerequisite: SILA 316 with a grade of "C" or better.

Advisory: SILA 330, 332, 498.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course provides a working knowledge of the profession of interpreting. It includes the history of the interpreting field, the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Code of Ethics, interpersonal relations, the roles and responsibilities of interpreters, and an overview of the settings involved.

INTRP 305 ITP: Consecutive Interpreting 3 Units

Formerly: SILA 11

Prerequisite: None

Corequisite: INTRP 300.

Advisory: SILA 330, 332, 498.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course provides basic skills in consecutive sign language interpreting (sign-to-voice and voice-to-sign). Primary emphasis includes a theoretical analysis of the interpreting process, reinforcement of prerequisite language, and development of the fundamental skills.

INTRP 307 ITP: Text Analysis and Translation: ASL and English 3 Units

Formerly: SILA 17

Prerequisite: SILA 316 with a grade of "C" or better.

Advisory: SILA 320.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course compares and contrasts the grammatical structures and patterns of American Sign Language and English. Comparison of the phonology, morphology, and syntax found in ASL and English will be the focus, with emphasis on the practical use of such knowledge.

INTRP 310 ITP: Introduction to Deaf Blind Interpreting .5 Units

Formerly: SILA 45A

Prerequisite: INTRP 300 with a grade of "C" or better.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 9 hours LEC

This course provides students exposure to, background in, and techniques for working with members of the deaf-blind community.

INTRP 312 ITP: Introduction to Oral Transmission .5 Units

Formerly: SILA 45B

Prerequisite: INTRP 300 with a grade of "C" or better.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 9 hours LEC

This course provides exposure to, background in, and techniques for oral transmission and interaction with oral deaf people.

INTRP 314 ITP: Introduction to Multicultural Communication .5 Units

Formerly: SILA 45H

Prerequisite: SILA 316 with a grade of "C" or better.

Advisory: INTRP 305.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 9 hours LEC

This course is an introduction to the field of multicultural communication. The focus will be on cultural and linguistic diversity, personal life experiences, and on enhancing racial and ethnic diversity in the interpreting profession.

INTRP 320 ITP: Simultaneous Interpreting 3 Units

Formerly: SILA 12

Prerequisite: INTRP 305 with a grade of "C" or better.

Advisory: SILA 330, 332, 498.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course provides intermediate knowledge and skill development in the area of simultaneous interpreting. Both sign to voice and voice to sign interpreting skills will be incorporated. Primary emphasis includes an application of the interpreting process, a focus on analytical and composition skills, and incorporation of cultural considerations.

INTRP 325 ITP: Transliteration 3 Units

Formerly: SILA 13

Prerequisite: INTRP 305 with a grade of "C" or better.

Advisory: SILA 330, 332, 498.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course provides basic skills in transliteration. Both sign to voice and voice to sign transliterating skills will be incorporated. Primary emphasis includes language/client assessment, contact signing forms, semantic appropriateness, syntactic considerations, lipshadowing, lip-reading, and fingerspelling reception and production.

INTRP 330 ITP: Introduction to Educational Interpreting, K-12 1 Unit

Formerly: SILA 45C

Prerequisite: INTRP 305 with a grade of "C" or better.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 18 hours LEC

This course is an introduction to interpreting in the educational setting with a focus on the elementary and secondary levels of education. Emphasis will be on vocabulary development and enrichment specific to educational interpreting, resource development, team building, roles and responsibilities, communicating with children, and ethics.

INTRP 332 ITP: Introduction to Educational Interpreting, Post Secondary 1 Unit

Formerly: *SILA 45D*

Prerequisite: INTRP 305 with a grade of "C" or better.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 18 hours LEC

This course is an introduction to interpreting in the educational setting with a focus on the post secondary level of education. Emphasis will be on vocabulary development and enrichment specific to educational interpreting, resource development, team building, roles and responsibilities, and ethics.

INTRP 334 ITP: Introduction to Medical Interpreting 1 Unit

Formerly: *SILA 45E*

Prerequisite: INTRP 305 with a grade of "C" or better.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 18 hours LEC

This course is an introduction to interpreting in the medical setting. Environmental considerations, vocabulary development, resource building, introductory knowledge, and ethics will be considered.

INTRP 336 ITP: Introduction to Performing Arts Interpreting 1 Unit

Formerly: *SILA 45F*

Prerequisite: INTRP 305 with a grade of "C" or better.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 18 hours LEC

This course is an introduction to interpreting in the performing arts setting. Environmental considerations, vocabulary development, resource building, introductory knowledge, and ethics will be considered.

INTRP 338 ITP: Introduction to Social Services and Employment Interpreting 1 Unit

Formerly: *SILA 45G*

Prerequisite: INTRP 305 with a grade of "C" or better.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 18 hours LEC

This course is an introduction to interpreting in the social services/employment setting. Environmental considerations, vocabulary development, resource building, introductory knowledge, and ethics will be considered.

INTRP 340 ITP: Introduction to Telephone, Television and Remote Relay Interpreting .5 Unit

Formerly: *SILA 45I*

Prerequisite: INTRP 305 with a grade of "C" or better.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 9 hours LEC

This course is an introduction to interpreting using the telephone, via television and video and remote relay interpreting. Environmental considerations, vocabulary development, resource building, introductory knowledge, and ethics will be considered.

INTRP 342 ITP: Introduction to Religious Interpreting .5 Unit

Formerly: *SILA 45J*

Prerequisite: INTRP 305 with a grade of "C" or better.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 9 hours LEC

This course is an introduction to interpreting in the religious setting. Environmental considerations, vocabulary development, resource building, introductory knowledge, and ethics will be considered.

INTRP 344 ITP: Introduction to Working with a Certified Interpreter .5 Unit

Formerly: *SILA 45K*

Prerequisite: INTRP 305 with a grade of "C" or better.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 9 hours LEC

This course is an introduction to interpreting with a certified deaf interpreter (CDI). Definition of roles, resource building, introductory knowledge, team development, and ethics will be considered.

INTRP 346 ITP: Specialized Vocabulary: Math and Computers .5 Unit

Formerly: *SILA 45L*

Prerequisite: SILA 316 with a grade of "C" or better.

Advisory: INTRP 305.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 9 hours LEC

This course provides an opportunity to develop specialized discourse for use in future interpreting assignments. The focus of the class will include use of general resources in ASL and English and the development of vocabulary and resources related to mathematics and computers.

INTRP 348 ITP: Specialized Vocabulary: Science & Geography .5 Unit

Formerly: *SILA 45M*

Prerequisite: SILA 316 with grade of "C" or better.

Advisory: INTRP 305.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 9 hours LEC

This course provides the opportunity to develop specialized discourse for use in future interpreting assignments. The focus of the class will include use of general resources in ASL and English and the development of vocabulary and resources related to scientific terms and locational signs.

INTRP 498 Work Experience in Sign Language Interpreting 1-3 Units

Formerly: *SILA 48B*

Prerequisite: SILA 330, 332, 498 with a grade of "C" or better.

Corequisite: INTRP 325.

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 9 hours LEC; 30-190 hours LAB

This course involves supervised work experience and career guidance in agencies which provide interpreting services to deaf clients. Students will be required to perform interpreting services to receive credit toward the completion of the interpreting certificate program. Students gain third party interpreter/transliterating experiences under supervision of an interpreting mentor. May be taken four times for a maximum of 8 units.

Sign Language Studies

SILA 305 American Sign Language 1 4 Units

Formerly: *SILA 1*

Prerequisite: None

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 72 hours LEC

This is a beginning course in a series of four courses in the visual-gestural processes of sign language. It provides instructional activities to become competent in communication with deaf people. The emphasis is on nonverbal communication. AA/AS area B; IGETC area 6.

SILA 306 American Sign Language 2 4 Units

Formerly: *SILA 2*

Prerequisite: SILA 305 with a grade of "C" or better.

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 72 hours LEC

This is the second in a series of four courses in American Sign Language. The emphasis is on nonverbal communication. Topics presented include grammatical features such as descriptors, differentiation between cardinal/ordinal numbers, contrastive structure, temporal aspect markers and temporal sequencing. AA/AS area B

SILA 315 American Sign Language 3 4 Units

Formerly: *SILA 3*

Prerequisite: *SILA 306 with a grade of "C" or better.*

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 72 hours LEC

This course is the third in a series of four courses in American Sign Language. It emphasizes expressive and receptive nonverbal communication skills between signers who have preliminary American Sign Language syntactical and lexical skills. It provides an understanding of deaf cultural processes by identifying behaviors and norms from activities assigned in the class. It also includes dialogues that involve asking, empathizing, negotiating and agreeing or disagreeing. AA/AS area B; CSU area C2

SILA 316 American Sign Language 4 4 Units

Formerly: *SILA 4*

Prerequisite: *SILA 315 with a grade of "C" or better.*

Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Hours: 72 hours LEC

This course is the last in a series of four courses in American Sign Language. It emphasizes expressive communication skills that involve making major life decisions, role shifting sequences in situations involving two or more people, narrating factual information, explaining rules and/or processes, games, narrating accidents, and using money. It incorporates information and activities previously learned about Deaf Culture into these narratives. AA/AS area B; CSU area C2

SILA 320 American Sign Language Discourse 3 Units

Formerly: *SILA 7*

Prerequisite: *SILA 316 with a grade of "C" or better.*

Advisory: *SILA 498.*

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course introduces signing beyond the conversational level. Complex and diverse signed situations are presented to improve both expressive and receptive skills. The focus will be on the diversity of register, affect, and style in American Sign Language.

SILA 322 Numbers, Fingerspelling, Classifiers 3 Units

Formerly: *SILA 9*

Prerequisite: *SILA 316.*

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course will focus on providing more advanced experiences and communication techniques with expressive and receptive fingerspelling, the use of classifiers, and the use of ASL number systems (numbers will include but not be limited to cardinal, ordinal, informational numbers: numbers related to time, temporal aspect signs, measurements, sports, and mathematical numbers).

SILA 330 Impact of Deafness 3 Units

Formerly: *SILA 5*

Prerequisite: *None*

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course is a survey of four institutions which have critical impact on the psycho-social development of people: family, education, work, and society. It provides awareness and sensitivity to the unique challenges of deafness and how they influence personal-social and communication competencies of the deaf person. Student selected visits to community events are required. AA/AS area C2 and F.

SILA 332 Education Deaf People 3 Units

Formerly: *SILA 6*

Prerequisite: *None*

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 54 hours LEC

This is a survey course of topics related to educating deaf children, adults, and multi-handicapped individuals. It also covers teaching methods and philosophies, school placement issues, child development, and methods of coping with developmental stages. Student-selected visits to community events are required.

SILA 340 ASL and the Deaf Community .5 Units

Formerly: *SILA 46A*

Prerequisite: *None*

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 9 hours LEC

This module introduces linguistic features of ASL and the socio-linguistic dynamics of the Deaf Community. Credit/no credit only.

SILA 342 Intercultural Communication .5 Units

Formerly: *SILA 46B*

Prerequisite: *None*

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 9 hours LEC

This module will explore personal and cultural values, behaviors, perceptions, and assumptions of the Deaf and hearing people who work with them. Included is the application of intercultural techniques for effective interaction and communication. Credit/no credit only.

SILA 344 Number Systems in ASL .5 Units

Formerly: *SILA 46C*

Prerequisite: *None*

Advisory: *SILA 305.*

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 9 hours LEC

This module provides hands-on experiences using ASL numbers with the cardinal/ordinal, incorporation and unique systems. Credit/no credit only.

SILA 346 Fingerspelling I .5 Units

Formerly: *SILA 46D*

Prerequisite: *None*

Advisory: *SILA 305.*

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 9 hours LEC

This module provides hands-on experiences with fingerspelling. Credit/no credit only.

SILA 348 Fingerspelling II .5 Units

Formerly: *SILA 46E*

Prerequisite: *SILA 346.*

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 9 hours LEC

This module will expand upon the skills learned in Fingerspelling I and introduces a more sophisticated fingerspelling usage as used by members of the Deaf Community. Credit/no credit only.

SILA 350 Classifiers .5 Units

Formerly: *SILA 46F*

Prerequisite: *None*

Advisory: *SILA 305.*

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 9 hours LEC

This module provides extensive hands-on experience with using basic and complex classifiers. Credit/no credit only.

SILA 352 Signing for Dependency Situations .5 Units

Formerly: *SILA 46G*

Prerequisite: *None*

Advisory: *SILA 306.*

Course Transferable to CSU

Hours: 9 hours LEC

This module will provide information related to the signs used by the Deaf community related to alcohol, sex, and drug abuse. Credit/no credit only.

SILA 354 Life Situations .5 Units

Formerly: *SILA 46H*

Prerequisite: *None*

Advisory: *SILA 305.*

Course Transferable to *CSU*

Hours: *9 hours LEC*

This module will provide hands-on experiences with signs that relate to food shopping, preparing food, common household chores, and holiday seasons. Credit/no credit only.

SILA 356 Pronominals .5 Units

Formerly: *SILA 46I*

Prerequisite: *None*

Advisory: *SILA 305.*

Course Transferable to *CSU*

Hours: *9 hours LEC*

This course will focus on advanced pronoun use with expressive and receptive skill in use of pronominals through hands-on activities. Credit/no credit only.

SILA 358 Everyday Conversations Used by Deaf People .5 Units

Formerly: *SILA 46J*

Prerequisite: *None*

Advisory: *SILA 305.*

Course Transferable to *CSU*

Hours: *9 hours LEC*

This module is an introduction to expressions, colloquialisms, vocabulary and cultural experiences that are used by Deaf people in their everyday lives. Credit/no credit only.

SILA 360 Non-Verbal Communication .5 Units

Formerly: *SILA 46K*

Prerequisite: *None*

Advisory: *SILA 305.*

Course Transferable to *CSU*

Hours: *9 hours LEC*

This module provides an introduction to gesture and mime processes that are fundamental to American Sign Language. Credit/no credit only.

SILA 362 Introduction to the Interpreting Profession .5 Units

Formerly: *SILA 46L*

Prerequisite: *None*

Course Transferable to *CSU*

Hours: *9 hours LEC*

This module will include discussion of trends, training requirements, certification requirements, traits and characteristics needed to become a successful interpreter in the Deaf community. Credit/No credit only.

SILA 364 Political and Legal Signs .5 Units

Formerly: *SILA 46M*

Prerequisite: *None*

Advisory: *SILA 306.*

Course Transferable to *CSU*

Hours: *9 hours LEC*

This module introduces signs related to advocacy efforts, the political/legislative process, and the legal system as it relates to the Deaf community. Credit/no credit only.

SILA 366 Basic Medical Signs .5 Units

Formerly: *SILA 46N*

Prerequisite: *None*

Advisory: *SILA 306.*

Course Transferable to *CSU*

Hours: *9 hours LEC*

This module provides hands-on experiences with commonly used medical signs. Credit/no credit only.

SILA 368 Signs for Sports .5 Units

Formerly: *SILA 46O*

Prerequisite: *None*

Advisory: *SILA 306.*

Course Transferable to *CSU*

Hours: *9 hours LEC*

This module addresses signs related to sports, sports events, and recreational activities enjoyed by members of the Deaf community. Credit/no credit only.

SILA 370 Non-Manual Signals in ASL .5 Units

Formerly: *SILA 46P*

Prerequisite: *None*

Advisory: *SILA 305.*

Course Transferable to *CSU*

Hours: *9 hours LEC*

This module illustrates the importance of non-manual signals in ASL. Discussion will relate to the role of non-manual signals as adverbs as grammatical distinctions in certain clauses, and as linked with a specific sign. Credit/no credit only.

SILA 372 Interacting with Deaf-Blind People .5 Units

Formerly: *SILA 46Q*

Prerequisite: *None*

Advisory: *SILA 305.*

Course Transferable to *CSU*

Hours: *9 hours LEC*

This module develops sensitivity awareness to the unique communication needs of deaf-blind people. Emphasis will be on interactive principles used in situations with deaf-blind people. Credit/no credit only.

SILA 494 Topics in Sign Language Studies .5-3 Units

Formerly: *SILA 47*

Prerequisite: *SILA 305.*

Course Transferable to *CSU*

Hours: *9-54 hours LEC*

Each module is a study of a specific topic or a technique in the area of sign language or deafness. Credit/no credit only.

SILA 498 Work Experience in Sign Language Studies 1-3 Units

Formerly: *SILA 48A*

Prerequisite: *SILA 305 with a grade of "C" or better.*

Course Transferable to *CSU*

Hours: *9 hours LEC; 30-190 hours LAB*

This course is supervised practical experience working with deaf clients. Under supervision of an agency mentor, the student provides entry-level paraprofessional services based on their skill level and other applicable experiences such as tutoring, note taking, communication aide, peer counselor, office assistant, administrative aide, instructional aide services. May be taken four times for credit for a maximum of 8 units.