



Department of ASL & Interpreting Studies

College of Education & Behavioral Sciences

McKee 114-Box 106. Greeley, CO 80639 <https://www.unco.edu/cebs/asl-interpreting/>

## **2021 FAQs: ASL-ENGLISH INTERPRETATION BA DEGREE**

### **WHO SHOULD APPLY FOR THE ASLEI PROGRAM?**

This Bachelor of Arts in American Sign Language-English Interpretation (ASLEI) is designed as a comprehensive 4-year degree program for an individual who is starting at the beginning of his/her academic work with the goal of becoming a highly qualified interpreter. At the same time, many individuals are looking for avenues to build on their two-year degrees, and/or professional credentials, to achieve their bachelor's degrees. Every effort is made to support these academic goals.

### **WHY CHOOSE THE UNC ASLEI PROGRAM?**

The ASL-English Interpretation program is unique in two primary ways: a) it has been initially designed for the purpose of preparing confident interpreter candidates to achieve national certification and to enter the profession as a competent, autonomous practitioner based on the newest research available with input from multiple, expert sources, and b) it has been designed for both on campus delivery or distance delivery to impact the national need for highly qualified ASL-English interpreters.

### **IS THERE A SEPARATE APPLICATION FOR THE ASLEI PROGRAM?**

Yes, once you have been accepted to UNC you will then need to fill out the ASLEI program application which will need to be completed and returned to the ASLEI program. There is also a Demonstration of Competencies screening required of all applicants. Contact [Kate.Beilmann@unco.edu](mailto:Kate.Beilmann@unco.edu) to learn more.

### **WHEN SHOULD I APPLY TO THE PROGRAM?**

Applications are accepted between September and April. Once you are in, or have completed, an ASL IV class you are ready to apply to the ASLEI program and complete the required Demonstration of Competencies screening. If you have acquired ASL competencies through ASL 1-IV coursework or life experiences, such as family members who are deaf/hard of hearing, you can apply to the program any time between September and April.

### **DO YOU ACCEPT STUDENTS WHO HOLD NATIONAL INTERPRETING CREDENTIALS BUT ARE LOOKING FOR A 4-YEAR DEGREE?**

Yes, if you hold RID NIC, Ed:K12, and/or EIPA 4.0+ (ASL & PSE versions only) and a passing score on the EIPA Written Test, we review your application a bit differently as your certification demonstrates language competency. You will not be required to complete the Demonstration of Competencies screening. If you also have a minimum of 21 credits of liberal arts core coursework completed, the time to graduation may be less than 4-years.

### **CAN I BEGIN THE PROGRAM IF I HAVE NOT TAKEN ASL COURSEWORK?**

No, interpreting requires a strong language base in ASL and English; therefore, the ASLEI program is a competency-based program. You must be ready to begin ASL V, the first course in the ASLEI program. This competency could be acquired through ASL I-IV coursework or life experience. If ASL I-IV are successfully completed at an accredited institution of higher education, up to 6 semester hours may be used to satisfy UNC liberal arts core requirements. The Demonstration of Competencies screening is required for ASLEI applicants to determine readiness and placement in the program. This screening is conducted online. Once you have applied to the ASLEI program, an email will be sent to you with the screening dates and screening registration information.

### **IF I AM UNABLE TO SHOW ASL I-IV LANGUAGE COMPETENCY AND AM NOT ACCEPTED INTO THE PROGRAM IS THERE A PATHWAY TO GET ME TO WHERE I NEED TO BE?**

If you need to acquire or strengthen your ASL language foundation: ASL I-IV coursework is offered on the UNC campus and offered online.

The Department of ASL & Interpreting Studies also offers an ASL Minor, both on campus and online with a declared major. This minor can be a bridge to entering the ASLEI program as 12 credit hours can be used for both the minor and the major requirements. However, the time required to complete the ASLEI program would be extended beyond 4-years.

### **HOW IS THE ASLEI PROGRAM DELIVERED?**

The ASLEI program is offered as a 3-semester year program and is offered as a traditional campus-based program or as a distance delivered hybrid option that requires a month in Greeley each summer. When you apply to UNC you have the option to choose either the on campus or online deliver option. You will need to commit to one delivery option or the other as this provides continuity to the program so that it can best support you as a student in the program.

### **HOW IS THE ONLINE PROGRAM DIFFERENT THAN THE ON CAMPUS PROGRAM?**

Although the staffing for the two delivery options may be different, the curriculum and outcomes of coursework and degree requirements are the same for both delivery options. The summer session, required of both on campus and online students, has typically been scheduled during the month of July. During the summer semesters of the tri-semester program, all students do a hybrid approach; 2 weeks online and 4 weeks on the UNC campus.

### **ARE HOUSING ACCOMODATIONS AVAILABLE ON CAMPUS FOR THE SUMMER SESSION?**

Yes, students have the option to stay on the UNC campus in one of the residence halls. Accommodations on campus are approximately \$1,400 for the 4 week on- campus requirement.

### **IS THE ONLINE PORGRAM STRUCTURED LIKE AN INDEPENDENT STUDY?**

No. The online program is not designed as an independent study since much of the learning occurs in the asynchronous interactions with other students and instructional staff from around the nation. Online ASLEI courses are structured with specific assignment due dates that are offered sequentially with pre-requisites. However, you will be given the due dates in advance so you can schedule your time accordingly. The time of day you do your coursework and required discussions is up to you as long as that work is posted or submitted by the assignment due dates.

## **ARE TUITION COSTS DIFFERENT FOR ON CAMPUS AND ONLINE DELIVERY OPTIONS?**

Yes, the costs are different. Online coursework is the same tuition rate for both instate and out of state students. It is calculated at about 150% of the in-state tuition rate regardless of where you live, across the street or across the nation. For current online tuition rates visit UNC financial aid.

On campus tuition is determined by the state and institution based on in-state or out-of-state student status. For more information on the current on campus tuition visit the UNC financial aid.

## **HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE FOR ME TO COMPLETE THE DEGREE?**

The ASLEI degree requires 120 credits; 31 credits of liberal arts and 72 credits in the major. The final 17 credits are dedicated to either the community interpreting or educational interpreting. For a full time student who is ASL V-ready, the degree will require 4-years in the tri-semester program; 12 semesters with courses offered fall, spring, and summer semesters. A one-month summer session is required for all students each year.

If an applicant is not ready for ASL V or is planning to be a part-time student, it is important to note that more than four years will be required to complete the degree. On the other hand, students who enter the program with ASL competency above ASL V and have previous college coursework may be able to complete the program in less than four years.

## **WILL I HAVE AN ADVISOR?**

Once you have been accepted into the ASLEI program an advisor will be appointed and a meeting set up to discuss your placement and plan of study. A recommended 4-year plan and a list of coursework can be found on the program's website.

## **HOW MANY CREDITS WILL I NEED TO TAKE EACH SEMESTER?**

Once you have matriculated (been accepted) into the program, you will take between 6-12 credits in the major each semester - Fall, Spring, and Summer. As well, liberal arts core courses will need to be completed to fulfill the degree requirements (see recommended 4 year plan on program's website).

Where you are placed in the program, as well as what courses are transferred into the UNC system, will impact the total number of credits you take each semester.

## **ARE THERE ANY UNIQUE COMPONENTS TO THE ASLEI PROGRAM?**

A senior capstone project is the overarching evaluation tool of the ASLEI degree. There will be benchmarks throughout the 4-year program that will ensure you are prepared to successfully exit the program.

Assessments will happen in various formats throughout the program, including the exit point, so that you will be ready to confidently approach a professional certification system within 6-12 months of graduation.

Throughout your academic coursework opportunities are built into the curriculum that contribute to the hours of internship hours required to graduate. Your major (community or educational) is reviewed for optimum placement (usually outside of your home state) and internship placement is arranged accordingly. As an intern you will be required to complete 160 hours of internship, under direct supervision, within a 4-6 week time period in the final summer semester.

## **WILL MY CREDITS FROM ANOTHER INSTITUTION TRANSFER TO UNC?**

In order to transfer credit between institutions, coursework must be on a transcript from an accredited institution that you previously attended. To have your previous coursework reviewed for transfer, you must first apply to UNC and send all official transcripts for transfer review. This process may take up to six

weeks depending on the time of year. You can do an "unofficial" review of your liberal arts core coursework by reviewing the UNC Liberal Arts Core checklist and compare coursework you have completed and what UNC requires.

**WILL COURSEWORK FROM MY INTERPRETER TRAINING PROGRAM TRANSFER INTO THE PROGRAM?**

Completed coursework in the areas of ASL, deafness, and/or interpreting is reviewed by the Department of ASL & Interpreting Studies once the Demonstration of Competencies screening is completed. This is discussed during the advising session prior to beginning the program.

**I HAVE ASL LANGUAGE COMPETENCY THROUGH LIFE EXPERIENCE, WOULD THIS COMPETENCY BE RECOGNIZED?**

If you have gained your ASL competencies through life experiences, a new system is being put into place at UNC to assess your ASL competencies. Retroactive credit of completed ASL coursework may be available depending on your demonstration of ASL competencies. That means if you can show ASL III competencies, you would have ASL I and II noted on your transcript as well.

**CAN I VISIT YOUR DEPARTMENT WHEN I AM ON CAMPUS?**

Yes, the Department of ASL & Interpreting Studies is located on the UNC campus, McKee room 114. UNC also offers on campus tours.

Click here to [SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT](#) with [Kate.Beilmann@unco.edu](mailto:Kate.Beilmann@unco.edu)

