

What is Deaf Studies?

American Sign Language (ASL) & the Deaf Studies major takes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of deaf and hard-of-hearing people in American and world society. The program promotes the understanding of deaf people as a linguistic and cultural group and encourages students to analyze existing stereotypes and policies relating to deaf and hard-of-hearing people to work both within their own communities and others in effecting change for the betterment of the deaf and hard-of-hearing community.

The core program is designed for students to develop a multidisciplinary approach to the study of deaf and hard of hearing people drawing from the areas of language, linguistics, community, history, culture, and literature.

Contact Undergraduate Studies

Phone: 916-278-6639
 Online: www.csus.edu/coe
 Address: 6000 J Street
 Eureka Hall, 401
 Sacramento, CA 95819-6079

Student Success Center

Office: Eureka Hall 401
 Phone: 916-278-6403
 Email: coe@csus.edu

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Our Faculty



Donald Grushkin, PhD

Office: Eureka Hall 312
 Email: grushkin@csus.edu



Martin Crudo, MA, NIC

Office: Eureka Hall 310
 Email: martin.crudo@csus.edu



Nate Dutra, EdD

Office: Eureka Hall 310
 Email: dutra@csus.edu

Program Coordinator



Leah Geer, PhD

Office: Eureka Hall 308
 Email: leah.geer@csus.edu

Deaf Studies Program



A great future is at hand...



Why Sacramento State?

The Sacramento State Deaf Studies Program has been a leader in ASL instruction in the Sacramento area since 1978.

The Sacramento State Deaf Studies Program is a dynamic student-centered program with a progressive philosophy toward second language instruction. We provide a broad range of as an intensive study of the culture and community of deaf and hard-of-hearing people. In addition, Sacramento State offers excellent academic and social opportunities for students from a variety of backgrounds.

Our program is residential in Sacramento, California where students can enjoy the best of city life and the great outdoors. Sacramento is known for its music, fine dining, and cultural attractions. Sacramento, as the state capital, with a vibrant and growing deaf community, offers excellent opportunities for social and political interaction. If you are looking for a great program at an extraordinary university in an exciting city, the Sacramento State Deaf Studies Program is the place for you!



Preparing for Your Future

Deaf Studies graduates are well-prepared for careers in both public and private sectors. Combining the Deaf Studies major with areas like Education, Counseling, Audiology, or Speech-Language Pathology provides a strong foundation for working with Deaf and hard-of-hearing communities. It also enhances employability in health services, legal advocacy, and social services.

Graduates can pursue roles such as:

- Administrative Assistant
- Community Advocate
- Educational Paraprofessional
- Legal/Political Professional
- Vocational Training Paraprofessional

With additional training, students may also become:

- ASL Instructors
- ASL-English Interpreters
- Social Workers
- Teachers of the Deaf (ToD)

Exciting News!

We are thrilled to introduce two new programs where a Deaf Studies BA serves as a foundation:

- Education Specialist: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Credential and MAT
- Single Subject Credential in World Languages: ASL and MAT

ASL/Deaf Studies Degree Programs

- ASL/Deaf Studies Major (B.A.)
- ASL/Deaf Studies Minor



Courses Offered

- ASL 1 through ASL 5
- Fingerspelling and Numbers
- ASL Classifiers
- Introduction to Deaf Studies
- Deaf History
- Deaf Culture & Community
- ASL Literature
- ASL Structure & Usage/ ASL Linguistics
- Current Issues in the Deaf-World Seminar
- Experiences in the Deaf Community