

ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE

Admission to the University: Applicants must first be admitted into the University of Houston prior to applying for the major in ASL Interpreting. To complete the application for the University of Houston please go to the website at www.applytexas.org

Admission to the American Sign Language Interpreting Major

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications are accepted on an on-going basis. Generally, students apply during the spring semester. Students that apply will be either: (a) college sophomores, (b) students transferring from a community college program, or (c) students who may be already certified interpreters. Generally, we will accept up to 20 students per year. Students that are applying in their sophomore year should have already taken ASL 1, 2 and 3 and should be enrolled in ASL 4. ASL 1 and 2 are considered leveling classes. If you are a freshman you are encouraged to take ASL 1 and 2 if you have not already taken them. Students who have taken ASL 1-4 at other colleges may petition to have their classes accepted at the University of Houston. In order to accept a petition; a meeting must be set up between faculty and student to evaluate your skills. Based upon this evaluation your petition may be accepted or you may be asked to re-take certain courses in ASL.

Admission to the program is a multi-step process. Steps 1- 4 should be submitted as one packet. Step 5 (letters of recommendation) may be sent separately. Your application will not be reviewed until it is complete.

Step 1. Complete a General Petition form which may be obtained by contacting the academic advisor for the Department, Ms. Marla Moreno.

Step 2. An unofficial transcript must be submitted prior to acceptance into the program. This will assist us in determining what classes you need to take.

Step 3. All applicants must submit a 2-3 page double-spaced paper following APA guidelines on one of the following topics: **(30 points)**

- A. Research in American Sign Language
- B. A Famous Deaf person
- C. The Deaf Community
- D. Research in Sign Language Interpreting

Step 4. All applicants must submit a VHS or DVD recording (40 points). Using American Sign Language, without voice, describe in 3-5 minutes total: **(30 points)**

- A. How you first become interested in American Sign Language;
- B. Your reasons for wanting to become a professional interpreter;
- C. Your professional goals following completion of the interpreting program; and
- D. What are your experiences with the Deaf Community?

Videos will not be returned to the student.

Step 5. In addition to this, three letters of recommendation from people of your choice who are familiar with your skills must be submitted. Each letter should address your expressive and receptive sign language skills. **(10 points)**

Step 6. If the application is reviewed favorably by the Admission Committee, the applicant will be invited for a personal interview. This interview will be set up with faculty at a date to be determined and will be conducted entirely in ASL. **(20 points)**

All completed applications are to be sent to:

Dr. Michael Bienenstock
University of Houston
Communication Sciences and Disorders
100 ClinicalResearch Ctr.
Houston, TX 77204-6018

For more information you may contact Dr. Bienenstock at mbienenstock@uh.edu

Applicant Recommendation

_____ is seeking admission to the ASL Interpreting major at the University of Houston. The applicant submitted your name for a professional reference. Please share your professional views on the applicant's

- A. American Sign Language skills
- B. English Language skills (both oral and written)
- C. Work and study skills
- D. Motivation
- E. Potential for success as an interpreter. (use separate paper if necessary)

Your name: _____ Position: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Please send completed form to:

Michael Bienenstock, Ph.D.
American Sign Language Interpreting
100 Clinical Research Ctr.
Houston, TX 77204-6018