

ISU Academic Advisor Campus Updates
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American Sign Language (ASL) is considered by many to be a true foreign language as it is both a distinct culture and form of communication. These courses are offered through the Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders, and Education of the Deaf (CSED) in the Kasiska College of Health Professions as part of two undergraduate degree programs.

These two ISU undergraduate degrees are offered in Boise (beginning fall 2009) and in Pocatello: the A.S. in Sign Language Studies (SLS), and the B.S. in Educational Interpreting (EI). In Boise, students apply to ISU & BSU, begin studies at BSU and transfer to ISU to complete the A.S. and B.S. degree. A "Decision Tree" chart outlining the application and degree-seeking steps for Boise and Pocatello sites is available at

<http://www.isu.edu/csed/csedApplication/appEdInterp/appEi.shtml>

- The program's website is http://www.isu.edu/csed/progEi/ed_interp.shtml and more information can be obtained by calling 282.4196 (Pocatello) or 373.1765 (Boise).
- ISU's program has approximately twenty students seeking the A.S. and twelve students working toward the B.S. degree. Students first earn the A.S. degree before progressing into the B.S. program, and are evaluated prior to acceptance into the B.S. degree. The sequence of ASL, interpreting and transliterating course work is critical.
- Admission into the degree program is becoming more and more competitive, with new B.S. graduates earning an average \$16/hour. Professional interpreters can earn up to \$45 to \$65 an hour.
- A good introduction class for those exploring ASL as a potential major is CSED 126 (Deaf Studies), a 1-credit class.
- All students seeking knowledge of Basic Sign I and II (CSED 227 and 228 - 2 credits each) for customer service, or other, use are encouraged to participate in the evening classes offered each semester.
- Individuals can take ASL I to IV (CSED 151, 152, 251 and 252) without committing to the major.
- Two minors are offered: Sign Language Studies and Deaf Education (non-certification).
- B.S. graduates in Educational Interpreting can work anywhere, including education provided they work with individuals who are teacher certified. *Students who want to teach deaf studies in elementary or secondary education must obtain teaching certification through the College of Education.*
- The program welcomes College of Education students, especially those majoring in Human Exceptionality/Special Education.