Bachelor of Science or Minor in Deaf Studies
What is Deaf Studies?

Deaf Studies is the study of the signed language, history, literature, community, and culture of Deaf people through the consideration of sociological, anthropological, and ethnographic perspectives.
Deaf Studies Faculty 2017

JB Begue, MA; Noe Turcios, MA; Kathleen Hajdamacha, MA; Jody Cripps, Ph.D.; Sheryl Cooper, Ph.D.
TU Graduation Requirements

1. Completion of 120 credits
2. 32 credits must be upper-level
3. All courses in the major must be completed with a grade of C or better
4. All Core courses must be completed
5. Some courses can be taken elsewhere, advance permission required
6. Overall GPA 2.0 minimum
7. Last 30 credits must be taken at Towson
The Major

1. Approximately 60 credits are required for the major; you also need Core Requirements and electives.
2. About 50% of DFST majors have two majors.
3. All major-related courses must be completed with a grade of “C” or better.

Photo: students in the “Career Exploration in Deaf Studies” class meet with professionals in the field of Deaf Studies to learn about career options.
Required Courses (48 credits)

1. Intro to Sociology
2. Intro to Psychology
3. ASL I*
4. ASL II*
5. ASL III*
6. ASL IV*
7. ASL V*
8. Intro to Deaf Studies**
9. Fingerspelling/Numbers*
10. Social Services in the Deaf Community
11. Deaf Culture*
12. Fundamentals of Hearing
13. Deaf History*
14. Linguistics*
15. Internship in Deaf Studies

* taught in ASL
** taught in ASL with an interpreter
DFST Electives
(Choose 3)

- Career Exploration in Deaf Studies (3)
- Intro to Deafblind Culture and Communication (3)
- Deaf Literature and Film* (3)
- Development of Signed Languages and Reading for Deaf Children* (3)
- Introduction to Interpreting (3)
- Classifiers* (3) (summer only)
- Service Learning (3) (Independent Study format)
The Minor

Photos: Students in the “Career Exploration in Deaf Studies” class meet in small discussion groups with professionals in the field of Deaf Studies to discuss career options.
DFST Minor Requirements  
(24 Credits)

Required courses:
- DFST 101 Introduction to Deaf Culture (pre: none) (Core 13)
- DFST 105 ASL II (pre: DFST 104 w/minimum grade of C)
- DFST 204 ASL III (pre: DFST 105 w/minimum grade of C)
- DFST 205 ASL IV (pre: DFST 204 w/minimum grade of C)
- DFST 304 ASL V (pre: DFST 205 w/minimum grade of C)
- DFST 308 Fingerspelling (pre: DFST 105 with minimum grade of C)
  - OR DFST 311 Fundamentals of Hearing (pre: 4-credit science)
  - OR DFST 306 Classifiers (summers only)

DFST Electives (2 courses [6 credits] required):
- DFST 345 Deaf Culture (pre: DFST 101, 205)
- DFST 375 Deaf History (pre: DFST 101, 205)
- DFST 425 Literature & Film/Deaf Com. (pre: DFST 101, 205)
ASL Lab
Academic Extras

- Honors College
- Study Abroad
- Research Opportunities
MEET Market:
Making the Extended Education Transition

An annual expo of Deaf-related graduate schools, interpreting programs, internship opportunities, & study abroad programs.
FAQs: Meet with DFST Faculty for Answers!

1. Do I need to know any ASL before entering the major/minor?
2. What are the pre-requisites for entering the Deaf Studies major/minor?
3. How long will it take to complete the Deaf Studies major/minor?
4. Do I need to repeat any sign language classes I already have taken?
5. Can I transfer into the major/minor?
6. Will I have any contact with people who are Deaf?
FAQs: Meet with DFST Faculty for Answers!

7. Will I receive career guidance in the program?
8. What can I do with a degree in Deaf Studies? What types of employment can I get with a degree in Deaf Studies?
9. What is the employment outlook?
Possible Career Paths

- Administrative
- Public Service
- Counseling
- Deafblind
- Education
- Rehabilitation
- Relay/Captioning
- Interpreting
- Audiologist
- Disability Specialist
- OT, PT, SLP
- Social Work
- and lots more!
Alumni Career Paths

DFST GRADUATES: OCCUPATIONS

- Other profession with no ASL
  - 11%
- Other profession with limited ASL
  - 16%
- Other profession with frequent ASL
  - 10%
- Counselor/social worker with deaf
  - 12%
- ASL Interpreter
  - 13%
- Hippo Interpreter
  - 3%
- Audiologist
  - 3%
- Speech-language pathologist
  - 3%
- Teacher/aid (Deaf educ)
  - 13%
- Teacher/aid (Regular educ)
  - 16%

Unknown
- 3%

Ways to Get Involved

- ASL Club
- ASL Residential Community (ASL Dorm)
- Semester at Gallaudet
- Semester in Siena, Italy
- Local Deaf events
- Volunteer opportunities in the community
- Service Learning opportunities
- Internship (90 hours on-site)
- Field trips and observations
ASL Club

TU ASL Festival
ASL Club at MdAD Conference
ASL Club Activities
ASL Club Activities
ASL Club hosts “That! Improv!”
ASL Residential Learning Community

Guest Speaker Event: CODA Panel, T-shirt Sales

Faculty Presentation on Audism 2016

Faculty presentation on Czech Deaf Culture and Czech Sign Language 2017
ASL Residential Community (Dorm) Trip to the Kennedy Center

Na Lagaat Deafblind Theater of Israel
DFST Peer Advisors
Deaf Events on Campus

Society for ASL Symposium, 2015
Guests Speakers in Classes

MD Relay representative explains MD Relay to Social Services class
Deaf Magicians on Campus
Service Learning

Students provide Deaf Awareness Training for the Baltimore County Department of Social Services

Students teach the Lutherville Fire Department about Deaf Awareness
Volunteering

Students volunteer at the MD School for the Deaf.

Students volunteer at a Deafblind social event.

Students in the “Social Services” class volunteer at “Project Homeless Connect” in Baltimore City.
Deaf Studies Semester in Siena, Italy
Summer Experiences
Summer Experiences
Graduation
Employment!

Teacher

Interpreters

Rehabilitation Counselor, Technology Specialist, Director of Policies and Advocacy, Transcriptionist
Further questions:

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