DEAF STUDIES CERTIFICATE

Program code: DFSD-CC

Location: Northwestern

Program Description

The Deaf Studies Certificate is designed for those students whose goal is to work with Deaf people in various entry level jobs. This one-year program provides students with advanced American Sign Language (ASL) skills and an in-depth understanding of the Deaf Community focusing on a bilingual-bicultural approach. Students will learn the foundations of ASL in the classroom. However, a key component of developing proficiency in ASL is frequent interaction with Deaf ASL signers. Therefore, as part of their course requirements, students are required to interact with signing Deaf people at various events both virtual and in person.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of all program requirements, graduates should be able to:

1. Communicate at an advanced level using American Sign Language.
2. Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of and sensitivity to American Deaf culture.
3. Describe the major characteristics of ASL literature.
4. Understand the linguistical aspects of American Sign Language.
5. Educate others with information and available resources for people who are Deaf and/or Hard of Hearing.

Career Opportunities:

- Teacher's aide
- Residential program counselor
- Job coach
- Communication specialist
- Deaf community advocate
- Paraprofessional with faculty who are Deaf

Certificate Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
ASL 1001	American Sign Language I	3
ASL 1002	American Sign Language II	3
ASL 2001	American Sign Language III	3
ASL 2002	American Sign Language IV	3
ASL 2005	Linguistics of American Sign Language	3
DSC 1001	Visual Gestural Communication	3
DSC 1012	Deaf Communities: Facts and Perspectives	3
DSC 2095	Field Experience in Deaf Studies	3
Total Credits		**24**