HONOURS BACHELOR OF INTERPRETATION PROGRAM (AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE – ENGLISH) (C302)

PROGRAM NAME
Honours Bachelor of Interpretation (American Sign Language – English)

COURSE CODE
C302

SCHOOL
School of Deaf and Deafblind Studies

CENTRE
Community Services and Early Childhood

LOCATION
St James Campus

DURATION
4 years (8 semesters) + 420-hour internship experience (equivalent to a 14-week term) (unpaid)

FIELD EDUCATION
Internship Experience (unpaid)

STARTING MONTH
September

CREDENTIAL
Honours Bachelor’s Degree

YEAR OF STUDY
2019-2020

METHOD OF STUDY
FT

APPLY TO
Ontario Colleges

TUITION
$9,077.00*+

ADDITIONAL COST

* Amounts listed are the total of tuition, materials, student service and ancillary fees for the first two semesters of programs starting in Fall 2018. Fees are subject to change for programs starting in Fall 2019 and at later dates.

+ The tuition fee for this program does NOT include the cost of the Work Experience.

International students: Visit the International Fees and Related Costs page for more information.

AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE HONOURS BACHELOR OF INTERPRETATION PROGRAM
George Brown College’s Honours Bachelor of Interpretation (American Sign Language – English) is the first degree of its kind in Canada. Developed to address the growing demand for qualified Sign Language Interpreters, this degree helps prepare graduates for work in this dynamic field.

An interpreter is a fluent bilingual-bicultural professional, facilitating communication between those who do not share the same language or culture.

To be a sign language interpreter requires manual dexterity, critical thinking skills, visual-spatial recognition, short-term and long-term memory, cognitive processing abilities in order to process information instantaneously at a level of bilingual and bicultural expertise beyond conversational fluency. For non-Deaf interpreters this will also include auditory-processing capabilities.

Over the course of four years, students will continue to improve and hone both their English and American Sign Language proficiencies while studying to become interpreters. This program focuses on seven areas of learning:

1. Language and Culture
2. Field Fundamentals
3. Interpreting Skills
4. Research Methods/Trends
5. Ethics and Professionalism
6. Breadth Electives
7. Field and Community Experience

For applicants with a diploma or advanced diploma in American Sign Language – English interpretation, an advanced entry option is available. For details on how to apply, see our How to Qualify and Apply page.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE AN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE - ENGLISH INTERPRETER?

IS THIS PROGRAM RIGHT FOR YOU?

Interpreting is a very rewarding but demanding field of work. Successful interpreters typically possess the following attributes:

• a strong command of both English and American Sign Language
• an excellent memory
• the ability to concentrate and focus easily and for long periods of time
• the ability to process and analyze information quickly (cognitive processing skills)
• multitasking ability
• versatility
• a willingness to be flexible
• strong communication skills
• excellent interpersonal skills

In preparation for field placement, students will be required to work in multiple small and large groups, both in classes and community settings. Attendance and participation are key elements of program success.

Please download the C302 Applicant Questionnaire here.

PART TIME STUDY OPTIONS

This program does not currently offer a part-time study option.
FIELD EDUCATION OPTIONS

420-HOUR INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE (UNPAID)

Students wishing to become successful in the field of interpreting should expect to dedicate a significant amount of time to developing their craft outside the classroom.

To help students transition their skills from a controlled classroom environment to the real world, we've developed a 420-hour internship program (equivalent to 14 weeks). This senior internship offered in semester seven runs for 420 hours. During this time students will apply their skills, abilities and knowledge to a variety of environments.

Students will work under the close supervision of a professional interpreter, develop greater understanding of policy implications for sign language interpreters and engage in research.

As most interpreters in Ontario are self-employed independent contractors, these opportunities are meant to provide a richer learning experience and the chance to strengthen skills, but are typically not paid positions.

PROGRAM STANDARDS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

The graduate has reliably demonstrated the ability to:

1. Analyze and critically apply current interpreting research trends as they inform meaning-based interpreting practices.
2. Analyze the power dynamics that affect human communication including the impact of the interpreter’s decisions and influence.
3. Respect cross-cultural needs of participants in an interpreted interaction in a professional and ethical manner.
4. Articulate societal views of Deaf culture, the Deaf community, multiculturalism, oppression, audism, global history of Deaf people, sign language linguistics and language variations.
5. Use current research literature to analyze key issues relating to the practice and profession of interpreting.
6. Determine appropriate modes of interpreting using evidence-based practice, effective interpersonal and professional skills.
7. Perform effectively as an interpreter by incorporating current research and recognizing contextual factors including language and culture.
8. Perform accurate and effective translations, consecutive and simultaneous interpretations.
9. Use communicative language abilities in first and second language as required to accommodate specific dialogic interactions.
10. Use professional and ethical judgment in decision making while respecting diversity, equity, equality and rights of all participants.
11. Engage in life-long learning and reflective professional development.
12. Assess personal competencies and limitations in the use of multicultural and multi-contextual approaches to communication.

REQUIRED COURSES

SEMESTER 1

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<tr>
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<th>Course Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BINT1001</td>
<td>American Sign Language I</td>
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<tr>
<td>BINT1002</td>
<td>Deaf Studies</td>
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<td>BINT1003</td>
<td>English Communications for Interpreters</td>
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<tr>
<td>BINT1004</td>
<td>Introduction to the Interpreting Profession</td>
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<td>American Sign Language II</td>
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<td>Cross-Cultural Studies</td>
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<td>BINT1103</td>
<td>Cognitive Processing Skills</td>
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<td>American Sign Language III</td>
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<td>Introduction to Research</td>
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<td>BINT2003</td>
<td>Sociolinguistics for Interpreting</td>
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<td>BINT2004</td>
<td>Values, Ethics and Professional Practice</td>
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<td>BINT2005</td>
<td>Introduction to Translation and Discourse Analysis</td>
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<td>American Sign Language IV</td>
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<td>BINT2102</td>
<td>Interpreting I</td>
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<td>BINT2103</td>
<td>Interpreting Essentials</td>
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<td>BINT2104</td>
<td>Service Learning Seminar</td>
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<td>American Sign Language V</td>
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<td>BINT3002</td>
<td>Interpreting II</td>
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<td>BINT3003</td>
<td>Interpreting Interaction: Community</td>
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<td>BINT3004</td>
<td>Interpreting Practicum Seminar I</td>
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<td>BINT3005</td>
<td>Interpreting Practicum Field I</td>
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<td>BINT4001</td>
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<td>Interpreting: IPE</td>
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CAREER OPTIONS

If you are interested in a dynamic career that provides meaningful and varied work, then this is the career for you. Graduates of this program will find interpreting opportunities in a variety of sectors and venues as demand for interpreters is increasing in response to national and provincial legislation, including mandated implementation of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

Graduates will be prepared to work as interpreters in a number of private and public environments such as:

- educational settings
- medical settings
- legal contexts
- business interactions
- social service agencies

A wide range of employment opportunities exist for interpreters. Established interpreters may hold such job titles as:

- ASL-English Interpreter
- Designated Interpreter
- ASL Consultant
- Conference Interpreter
- Community Interpreter
- Translator

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants are selected on the basis of their academic achievement, including the required courses, and any other selection criteria outlined below.

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma with six Grade 12 University (U) or University/College (M) courses, with a combined average of 65% or higher
- Grade 12 English (U) with a grade of 65% or higher
- Grade 11 Math (M or U) or Grade 12 Math U or Grade 11 Science U or Grade 12 Science (M or U)
- Combined average of English and Math/Science of 65% or higher
- Post-secondary credits in English and Math/Science will also be considered (specific courses only)
- Supplementary requirements as outlined below

MATURE STUDENT STATUS: 19 YEARS OR OLDER AND NO OSSD**

- Grade 12 English U with a grade of 65% or higher
- Grade 11 Math (M or U) or Grade 12 Math U or Grade 11 Science U or Grade 12 Science (M or U)
- Combined average of English and Math/Science of 65% or higher
- Post-secondary credits in English and Math/Science will also be considered (specific courses only)
- Supplementary requirements as outlined below

** There is no mature student testing in the required credits for degree programs. Mature applicants must have the English, Math and Science credits required. Mature student applicants, who require Grade 12 University (U) level credits for their application to a George Brown degree program, may consider completing our on-campus Degree Preparation (U-level) Courses at no extra cost. Additional information on where and how to upgrade can be found on the English, Math and Science upgrading pages.

SUPPLEMENTAL REQUIREMENTS:

Non-Deaf applicants: Basic ASL proficiency level equivalent to approximately 200 hours of ASL instruction and practical use***

Deaf Interpreter applicants: Advanced (native) comprehension and articulation of American Sign Language with awareness of connotative levels of meaning, along with idiomatic expressions and colloquialism use

All applicants:

- Online information session
- Applicant Questionnaire
- Attend screening interview that evaluates ASL and pre-interpretation skills*
- Provide a reference letter** (to be submitted at the interview)

* Screening process comprised of assessments of both proficiency in American Sign Language (comprehension and articulation) and pre-interpretation skills. Applicants are required to demonstrate an understanding of the Deaf community and the field of sign language interpreting. Both academic requirements and all pre-requisites must be satisfied prior to registering for the screening session.

** The letter of reference from a Deaf person should address the following: your current ASL abilities, your involvement in the Deaf community and their reason for supporting your application to the program. The letter must be from a Deaf person who is not a family member or a current faculty member of George Brown. The letter must include their signature and their contact information. The letter can be either a type-written letter (Word or PDF document), or an ASL video letter, addressed to the program co-ordinators.

*** These competencies can be acquired through the American Sign Language and Deaf Studies certificate program at George Brown (C114), or an equivalent program, through part-time courses in the community or through regular interaction with Deaf people.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants are selected on the basis of their academic achievement, including the required courses, and any other selection criteria outlined below.

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma with six Grade 12 University (U) or University/College (M) courses, with a combined average of 65% or higher
- Grade 12 English (U) with a grade of 65% or higher
- Grade 11 Math (M or U) or Grade 12 Math U or Grade 11 Science U or Grade 12 Science (M or U)
- Combined average of English and Math/Science of 65% or higher
- Post-secondary credits in English and Math/Science will also be considered (specific courses only)
- Supplementary requirements as outlined below

OR
Please note: Subject to competition, applicants may be required to have grades/averages above the minimum.

There is no admissions assessment (test) for the English, Math or Science requirements.

Advanced Entry for Interpreting Diploma Graduates

Graduates of George Brown's three-year American Sign Language - English Interpreter advanced diploma program and Graduates of other ASL-English Interpreting diploma programs across Canada and the US will have a degree completion pathway that enables them to enter directly into the degree program.

Applicants are selected on the basis of their academic achievement, including the required courses, and any other selection criteria outlined below.

Semester 5 Advanced Entry:

• Graduate of other ASL-English Interpreting diploma programs across Canada and the US with a minimum of 3.0 GPA
• Prior successful completion of a Research Course with minimum passing grade of 65%
• Prior completion of 2 Liberal Studies courses with minimum passing grade of 65%

Semester 7 Advanced Entry

• Graduate of George Brown's three-year American Sign Language - English Interpreter Advanced Diploma Program with a minimum 3.0 GPA
• Prior successful completion of a Research Course with minimum passing grade of 65%
• Prior completion of 2 Liberal Studies courses with minimum passing grade of 65%

Please contact the program co-ordinators for more details about either degree completion pathway.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY REQUIRED:

George Brown College ESL Level 9; TOEFL 84 overall and 21 in each skill band (Online); IELTS 6.5 overall and 6.0 in each skill band; MELAB 85; CAEL overall 70 (writing 60); Please visit georgebrown.ca/englishproficiency for more details.

COURSE EXEMPTIONS

College or university credits may qualify you for course exemptions. Please visit georgebrown.ca/transferguide for more information.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Visit the International Admissions page for more information.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Police Reference Check

• In compliance with requests from our student placement partners, all students in this program must have a police reference check completed before their field placement.
• These reference checks, which can take up to four months, are done to protect the clientele of these agencies, who are considered “vulnerable persons” under the law.
• The fees for the reference checks vary and must be paid by the student.
• Students are responsible for ensuring that the check covers appropriateness for “individuals being employed and/or volunteering who will be working with vulnerable person(s)”. 
• Students who are unable to provide a clear police reference check may be unable to complete their field placement and, therefore, be unable to complete the program.

Please visit georgebrown.ca/preplacement/record_check for more details.

George Brown has been granted a consent by the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development to offer this applied degree for a 7-year term starting September 29, 2015. The college shall ensure that all students admitted to the above-named program during the period of consent will have the opportunity to complete the program within a reasonable time frame.

Learn how Christopher Desloges (Graduate 2007, American Sign Language – English Interpreter) developed his passion for American Sign Language into a successful business that now hires George Brown College American Sign Language – English Interpreter Grads.

“My professors are passionate about their work and support us tremendously. They not only teach us the skills we need to succeed in this program, but to be successful in life and in our careers as professional interpreters.”

Nahed Dajjani (Student, Honours Bachelor of Interpretation [American Sign Language – English])

CONTACT US

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Our office hours are 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
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Rhondda Reynolds, Program Co-ordinator, Honours Bachelor of Interpretation (American Sign Language – English) rreynolds@georgebrown.ca
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