

**The Deaf Studies Department  
California State University, Northridge**



**ASL/ENGLISH INTERPRETER EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP)  
FALL 2024 COHORT**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Q: If I am currently enrolled in ASL IV in Spring 2024, can I still apply?**

A: Yes. Grades for Spring 2024 will be posted by May 26, 2024 and will be verified prior to making the final selection of students accepted into the IEP for Fall 2024.

Please note that a final grade of B or better is required in the class. In the event that you do not get a B or better in the class, you may request a letter of recommendation from your ASL IV instructor that indicates that you would still be a good candidate for the Interpreter Education Program. The letter must be received no later than Thursday, May 23, 2024 in order for you to continue to be considered for the Fall 2024 IEP cohort.

**Q: If I received a C in ASL IV, can I still apply?**

A: Yes. For students in this situation, you have the following options:

1. Ask your ASL IV instructor to write a letter of recommendation that indicates that the grade you received is not fully reflective of your actual abilities/potential and that they would recommend you for the Interpreter Education Program.
2. If getting a letter of recommendation is not an option, you will not be eligible for consideration for the Fall 2024 Cohort. You are encouraged to enroll in DEAF 300 and/or DEAF 370 in Fall 2024/Spring 2025 to further develop your ASL skills. A grade of B or better in either of these classes will supersede the grade you received in your ASL IV class.

You will then be eligible to reapply for the Fall 2025 IEP Cohort.

**Q: Do classes taken at a community college transfer to CSUN to meet IEP admission requirements?**

A: Community college classes are considered lower-division (100-200 level courses). Therefore, they will not transfer to CSUN to meet any upper-division class requirements (300-400 level classes). Generally, the only classes taken at a community college that will transfer to CSUN are lower-division ASL classes (Levels I, II, III, IV).

**Q: Can my recommendation letters be submitted separately from my application, or must they be turned in with all of the application materials?**

A: Recommendations may be submitted separately from your other application materials. The deadline to receive the recommendations is Friday, March 1, 2024. Please see the instructions on the Application form for specific information about how the recommendations can be submitted.

**Q: If I have been accepted/am enrolled at CSUN as a graduate student and already have a Bachelor's degree, can I still apply for the IEP?**

A: Yes, you may still apply. However, in keeping with CSU's mission and the NAD-RID certification performance testing education requirement, priority consideration is given to undergraduate students earning their first bachelor's degree.

**Q: If I don't get accepted to the IEP for Fall 2024, can I reapply?**

A: Yes, candidates can apply for admission to the IEP a total of TWO (2) times as long as they will not exceed the university maximum of 140 overall units.

**Q: If I have over 90 units or am a senior, am I still eligible to apply?**

A: Yes, as long as you will not exceed 140 units to complete your major requirements. For the 140-unit maximum rule, only the remaining general education, major and minor requirements are included in the calculations. The elective courses you may enroll in to reach full-time status will not be included in the calculations for the 140-unit maximum.

**Q: I am eligible to graduate Fall 2024 or Spring 2025. Can I apply for graduation and still apply for the IEP?**

A: No, you cannot submit a graduation application and also apply for the IEP. You can, however, postpone your submitting your graduation application until you receive notice of your denial/acceptance to the IEP and then proceed accordingly with applying for your graduation or delaying your graduation.

**Q: In the "qualifications" section of the application information (<https://www.csun.edu/eisner-education/deaf-studies/interpreter-education-program>), it states that applicants must "understand adult-level ASL discourse." What does that mean?**

A: The video screening source and program materials will feature video and English texts that are representative of advanced adult-level language usage in terms of topic and complexity. Meeting this qualification assures the student's sociolinguistic readiness to begin interpreter training.

**Q: Who evaluates the applications and conducts the interviews?**

A: The applications and video recordings are evaluated by the IEP Screening Committee that is comprised of a variety of Deaf individuals and seasoned interpreters. A member or members from the Committee will also conduct any follow-up interviews that may be required to obtain more information about a candidate's potential and qualifications.

**Q: If I took ASL I-IV in high school, will that fulfill the ASL requirement on the application?**

A: Course information is evaluated on an individual basis. Typically, students who complete ASL courses in high school are not up to University-level standards in regards to vocabulary and language skills. Skill proficiency demonstrated in the video recording will help the Committee make a final determination about the applicant's language skills.

**Q: Is DEAF 350 a required course in order to apply for the IEP?**

A: No, DEAF 350 is not required in order to apply for the IEP; however, it is highly recommended and will enhance applicants' understanding of oppression, the history of the interpreting field, current trends, and best practices. If your intent is to enroll in the IEP, you are encouraged to meet with an advisor to work this class into your course plan.

**Q: If I have questions about the IEP application and/or the application process, who should I contact?**

A: First, refer to the application and the FAQ's on the Deaf Studies website. The information provided is very thorough and self-explanatory and should not require further explanation. However, if further clarification is needed, please email [deaf.iep@csun.edu](mailto:deaf.iep@csun.edu).

**Q: What are the guidelines and requirements for the letters of recommendation?**

A: For complete guidelines and requirements for the letters of recommendation, please refer to the IEP application.

**Q: Are students allowed to use the ASL Lab to record their Video Statements?**

A: Yes! The ASL Lab is a great option when considering locations to record your Video Statement. The open hours in the ASL Lab vary each week due to class reservations, so be sure to check the schedule in advance (posted on the door). When filming, please keep in mind that a solid background is best, make sure to wear modest solid-colored clothing that contrasts with your skin tone (no graphic t-shirts or low-cut blouses), pull your hair back (away from your face), and avoid wearing any distracting makeup or jewelry.

**Q: What are you looking for in the Video Application/Statement of Interest?**

A: There will be three (3) questions/prompts that you will be required to answer. Applicants should thoroughly and thoughtfully answer each of the questions (being mindful not to exceed the 4-minute time limit). The IEP Screening Committee will be paying attention to the quality of the answers provided as well as the sign language fluency demonstrated.

**Q: What gives me the highest chance for acceptance into the IEP?**

A: Ultimately, your letters of recommendation and then your language quality and fluency. Over the years, we have found that those who have clearly established relationships with Deaf people in the community typically have the strongest language skills as well as cultural competency. Those relationships and the associated language quality and fluency are the biggest predictor of not only your success in passing the screening, but also in how well you navigate the program.

**Q: What is the philosophy or current pedagogical approach in the IEP?**

A: The program has a strong orientation towards social justice, and it is through this lens that the program operates. Linguistically, students are steered towards the monocultural and monolingual production of both ASL and English, meaning that students should be prepared to produce spoken English in a way that hearing people who know nothing about Deaf people can understand, and produce ASL in a way that everyday Deaf community members can comprehend. Discourse comparative analysis and content/informational comparative analysis are foundational to developing an interpreter process. Finally, the program supports students in being able to analyze their own work for discourse and content equivalency between the source language and target language interpretation.

**Q: What are outcomes for students successfully navigating the program?**

A: Graduates are generally employable in entry-level settings. While there are many specialty areas in sign language interpretation, in this program you are being trained to work in low-risk community settings, as well as higher education. Students are generally discouraged from aiming to interpret in K-12 settings until at least 10 years of professional practice. And because of the location of our program, many come in aspiring to become entertainment interpreters. It is important to note that generally interpreters are working in the profession for 10+ years before having the skill and experience needed to enter the entertainment industry and this applies to other niche areas as well.

**Q: I've heard that acceptance into the IEP does not guarantee completion. Is this true?**

A: Because of the rigor of the program—both in terms of amount of work and quality expectation—some students may find that they need more time in language development and/or processing development, and may elect to exit the program to pursue such. Additionally, your instructors in DEAF 380, 381, and 420 will look at your rate and speed of growth and progress to determine if you are ready for the next class. Every year the program starts with approximately 24 students, and generally by the practicum we have anywhere from 12-16 remaining.