

Course Description

INT1480 | Interpreting Special Settings & Populations | 3.00 credits

The course examines various settings in which interpreters work. These include social service and rehabilitation, employment-related, mental health and substance abuse treatment, religious, performing arts, legal and other settings. Also considered are specific deaf and hard of hearing consumers who present unique challenges for interpreters such as oral deaf persons, people who are both deaf and blind and those who would be classified as having minimal language skills (MLS). The course includes lecture and skill building opportunities. Prerequisites: ASL2160C, INT1000

Course Competencies:

Competency 1: The student will examine various settings in which interpreters work, exploring the unique challenges and considerations associated with each setting by:

1. Investigating social service and rehabilitation settings to understand the specific communication needs and challenges faced by deaf and hard of hearing individuals in these contexts, and exploring effective interpreting strategies to ensure effective communication access
2. Exploring employment-related settings, such as job interviews, meetings, and trainings, to identify the specific demands and expectations for interpreters, and developing skills to facilitate effective communication between employers, employees, and deaf or hard of hearing individuals
3. Analyzing mental health and substance abuse treatment settings, understanding the sensitive nature of these interactions and the role of interpreters in maintaining confidentiality, empathy, and cultural responsiveness while providing accurate interpretation

Competency 2: The student will consider specific deaf and hard of hearing consumers who present unique challenges for interpreters, such as oral deaf persons, individuals who are both deaf and blind, and those with minimal language skills (MLS) by:

1. Adapting interpreting techniques and strategies when working with oral deaf persons, utilizing visual cues, gestures, and other non-verbal communication methods to facilitate effective communication access
2. Exploring the challenges and considerations when working with individuals who are both deaf and blind, understanding the need for tactile signing, close physical proximity, and specialized communication methods to ensure effective interpretation
3. Developing skills to work with individuals who have minimal language skills (MLS), utilizing visual aids, simplified language, and context-building techniques to enhance understanding and facilitate effective communication in these situations

Competency 3: The student will have the opportunity to engage in lecture and skill-building activities to enhance their understanding and proficiency in working in various interpreting settings by:

1. Participating in lectures and discussions to gain knowledge and insight into the specific challenges and considerations of interpreting in social service, employment-related, mental health, substance abuse treatment, religious, performing arts, legal, and other settings
2. Engaging in skill-building activities, such as role-plays, case studies, and simulated interpreting scenarios, to develop practical skills and strategies for effective communication in diverse interpreting settings
3. Reflecting on the lecture and skill-building experiences, analyzing personal strengths, areas for improvement, and the impact of acquired knowledge and skills on interpreting practice in different settings

Learning Outcomes:

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills
- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
- Demonstrate knowledge of ethical thinking and its application to issues in society