



# Teaching American Sign Language M.A. Student Handbook

2023-24

# University of Northern Colorado

## Department of ASL & Interpreting Studies

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The faculty and staff of the ASLIS and the University of Northern Colorado bring expertise and many years of experience, passion, and dedication to supporting students working towards educational  
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# The Department of ASL & Interpreting Studies

ASLIS is part of the [College of Education and Behavioral Sciences](#) (CEBS), located in McKee Hall room 525, that delivers 3 programs on the Greeley campus of the University of Northern Colorado.

ASL I-IV Courses & ASL Minor Courses are offered to develop your conversational fluency and increase your knowledge of Deaf Culture.

The programs are:

1. [ASL I-IV courses](#) are open to anyone interested in learning ASL. You can take ASL courses to meet 6 credits of your Liberal Arts requirements. ASL I-IV are offered on-campus and online.
  - 1) A student, who demonstrates readiness in ASL course beyond ASL 101, after passing the next level course, may be able to obtain [ASL Retro Credit](#).
  - 2) [The ASL Minor](#) (ASL I-VI & two upper division electives) is open to UNC students with a declared major. The minor offers 24 credits designed to accompany any UNC major. Courses within the ASL minor are offered on-campus and online. Many of the minor courses count for the ASLEI major simultaneously.
2. [Bachelor of Arts in ASL-English Interpretation](#) is offered campus-based and online as a tri-semester program designed to prepare highly qualified entry-to-practice interpreters for community or educational settings.
3. [Master of Arts in Teaching American Sign Language](#) is offered in a hybrid delivery system. This program provides students with the pedagogical coursework to teach ASL as a foreign/modern language in numerous settings, including secondary and post-secondary. The two degrees offered in the Teaching ASL program are:
  - Teaching ASL MA-



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# Teaching American Sign Language (TASL)

and welcome to your academic journey in the Teaching American Sign Language (TASL) Program! According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, only 13 percent of the U.S population holds an advanced degree. We are excited that YOU are part of [UNC's Graduate School!](#)

The TASL M.A. degrees, delivered via distance learning and four-week summer residential requirements, prepares you to teach American Sign Language in a number of settings, including K-12 and post-secondary.

## Majors

This program provides a choice of two majors, depending on your professional goals.

- Teaching ASL MA
- Teaching ASL MA: Licensure: World Language (Grades K-12)



## Program Objective

Gain the knowledge and skills to effectively teach the third most popular modern/foreign language in the United States - American Sign Language (ASL) – from Colorado's top-ranked institution for online graduate programs in education.

## Program Description

- As a TASL student, you are in one of the first programs nationwide to prepare teachers of ASL.
- AS a UNC student, you are in one of the top education colleges and online education graduate programs in the nation and the institute preparing the largest number of teachers in Colorado.
- The TASL Program, with approval from [Colorado Department of Higher Education](#) and [Colorado Department of Education](#), offers a state-of-the-art curriculum based on the newest research with input from national experts in the field, and aligns standards from the American Council on Teaching Foreign Languages.
- Learn from nationally recognized instructional staff who are typically native ASL users.
- Compete pedagogical coursework necessary to teach ASL as a modern/foreign language.
- Gain valuable real-world preparation through extensive field-based learning experiences that includes observation and supervised student teaching.

## Program Highlights

- This is an 18-month program that begins with a face-to-face summer residential session on the UNC campus.
- All courses are online with the 09o0.001 Tc(h)2.3 (e)-3.1 ( )J8whe-5 (h)-0.7 (i)-3.rh

## Program of Study

The following is the course of study for TASL students. Courses must be taken in sequence unless otherwise instructed by your advisor:

### TASL MA

#### Summer 1

Strategies for TASL Success – 3 weeks in May-early June

TASL 501 Methods First and Second Language Acquisition in ASL (3)

TASL 505 Teaching Deaf Community, Culture, and ASL Literature (3)

#### Fall 1

TASL 502 ASL Teaching (3)

TASL 503 ASL Assessment and Testing (3)

#### Spring 1

TASL 511 American Sign Language Linguistics (3)

TASL 593 Practicum for ASL Teaching I (3)

#### Summer 2

TASL 504 ASL Curriculum Development and Design (3)

TASL 506 Contemporary Professional Issues in Teaching ASL (3)

#### Fall 2

TASL 600 ASL Graduate Research (3)

TASL 594 Practicum for ASL Teaching II (3)





**Program Requirements 4215 Tw 11.040 0 s61**  
Teaching ASL M.A.





# Hybrid Course Delivery

The following information will detail the online learning management system – Canvas, online resources, as well as the four-week summer residential session at Greeley.

For more information about the technical requirement, please see this [Extended Campus webpage](#).

## Canvas

The UNC online delivery for courses is Canvas. This is a secure learning management system that uses the Internet to enable your access to the course content, assignments, readings, and resources using a Web Browser. Canvas also provides a convenient way for students and instruction4.3 (a)8u.59en2f8 (i)79an2f8 (i)0stunilp (p)-0.7 (b)-6 (d)-0.2.9 (u)-0.7 (8 (i)7)-0

## Technical Support

Business Hours:

- Monday-Thursday 8am-7pm
- Friday 8am-5pm
- Saturday-Sunday 10am-7pm

If you call after these times, a call service takes your call and alerts UNC IT personnel. The help ticket will then be given to the IT personnel to be completed on the next business day.

Online technical support is also available by going to <https://help.unco.edu>, you will need to log in using your UNC email address and password.

You can also get help by dialing (970) 351-4357(HELP) or 1-800-545-2331 to contact one of the skilled support representatives during business hours.

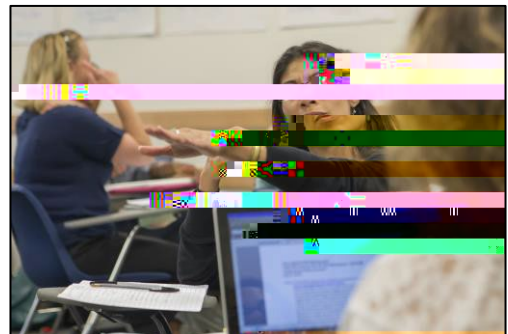
## Hybrid Residential Summer Session

Summer's accelerated hybrid approach consists of two weeks online (typically in June) plus four weeks on campus (typically in July) and two additional weeks online (August). You will take 6-9 credits providing intensive language, knowledge, research and/or teacher preparation. While on-campus during the summer semester, you will be in face-to

# Assessment of Learning

In the pursuit of TASL majors, the learning objectives are assessed through project-based activities that generally require students to apply the learning to real life situation or their work experiences as ASL instructors.

## Attendance



**Lab courses require twice as many hours and field-based courses such as practicum require three times as many hours to complete as knowledge-based courses.**

If you take one knowledge-based course (3 credits) in a traditional semester it might look like:

180 hours required /15 weeks = 12 hours per week required

Obviously major assignments may increase the time required in a given week and other weeks might require less time, but you need to be prepared to tackle challenging coursework in your TASL program

These numbers are averages, but remember, the amount of time it takes YOU to access your online course and complete all the course activities will depend on:

- Familiarity with the content/topic
- Reading comprehension/writing skills
- Speed of Internet access
- Availability of dedicated quiet time for study
- Local resources available for observations, internships, etc.

It's also important to check the UNC-ASLIS website, <https://www.aslis.org/>



- Academic discussion groups – Each assignment or activity that requires a discussion will have a unique discussion group in Canvas. You must post your message to the cori 12 126. to6 pd4.9 (c)-4.9 (t)-5.9 (y)89vssio7 g2.2

Follow these general rules for formatting your paper, unless otherwise indicated in the specific assignment:

- 12-point font
- Arial or Times Roman fonts preferred
- Double spaced
- 1-inch margins
- APA formatting
- Reference page using APA format

## Use of Artificial Intelligence

**The use of artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot technologies, such as ChatGTP, to generate text, is not allowed and will be treated as an academic integrity violation.**

## Course Completion

As a distance learner, you have a unique opportunity to take more responsibility for your own learning by establishing a study and participation schedule that maximizes your learning. Since the class does not “meet” at an established time and day of the week, it will be your responsibility to stay current with your readings, activities, and assignments. Also, it is important for you to be an active participant in the online discussions, which is the discussion that connects you with your classmates in the cohort for the purpose of exploring and discussing your new learning.

Your online courses are designed to challenge you to do your best work. Information, exercises, and activities are provided to help you with this process. You will have the opportunity to assist each other towards success. Your input is essential.

**Deadlines are im (i)-370.8 (dl)-8 (he( )Tj0.002 Tc(m (i)-370t)-4.9 (w [A]0.9o)-37)0.Ad(c)1.1 (i)dT( )10. (t)-5.2 T005 Tw -3ib  
acow**

## **Degree Works**

You are encouraged to check Degree Works in your URSA account each semester to monitor program progress, grades on your college transcripts, and to see if graduation requirements are met. You know more about your progress in your course of study than any other person. Please be sure to monitor your progress through your time in the program.

## **Concerns and Complaints**

Students who have academic concerns and/or complaints are expected to first contact the course instructor to discuss the issue towards a resolution. Most issues are resolved in this way. If the student disagrees with the resolution, then the student should contact the Program Coordinator. If unable to reach an acceptable solution, the next step would be Coord((

# Resources & Information

**TASL Current Student Page** - a resource page for students to access important documents, updated Program information, student highlights, and summer logistics: <https://www.unco.edu/cebs/asl-interpreting/academic-programs/tasl.aspx>

**Student Consumer Information** – information that is applicable to all UNC students: <http://www.unco.edu/student-consumer-information/>

**UNC Graduate School** offers new and current students' information and resources: [http://www.unco.edu/grad/new\\_current/index.html](http://www.unco.edu/grad/new_current/index.html)

## Student Rights

As an ASLIS student, you will have access to ASLIS materials, staff and other students at various times throughout your experience. It is imperative, therefore, that we all share the same expectations.



**Psychological Services**

Office Located: McKee Hall Room 247

Office Phone: 970-351-1645

Web: <https://www.unco.edu/cebs/psychological-services-clinic/>

Hours: By Appointment

Email: [ppsy.clinic@unco.edu](mailto:ppsy.clinic@unco.edu)

\*Staff members at confidential campus resources are not required to automatically report incidents of sexual or relationship/dating violence or stalking to the University. There are limits to confidentiality, and before speaking with a staff member, those exceptions are 50.6 (v)95.r(rt)-2.3 (n)-0.6 (e)-d (p)1

## **Equity and Inclusion**

The University of Northern Colorado (UNC) embraces the diversity of students, faculty, and staff. UNC honors the inherent dignity of each individual, and welcomes their unique perspectives, behaviors, and world views. People of all races, religions, national origins, sexual orientations, ethnicities, genders and gender identities, cognitive, physical, and behavioral abilities, socioeconomic backgrounds, regions, immigrant statuses, military or veteran statuses, sizes and/or shapes are strongly encouraged to share their rich array of perspectives and experiences. Course content and campus discussions will heighten your awareness of others' individual and intersecting identities. For information or resources, contact the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, at 970-351-1944. If students want to report an incident related to identity-based discrimination/harassment, please visit [www.unco.edu/institutional-equity-compliance](http://www.unco.edu/institutional-equity-compliance). Additionally, there are several cultural and resource centers across the campus that are equipped and designed to serve as caring and thoughtful centers for students, staff and faculty. You can find their information below:

### **Asian Pacific American Student Services (Cultural Center)**

924 20th St  
Greeley, CO 80639  
(970) 351-1909

[AsianPacificAmerican.StudentServices@unco.edu](mailto:AsianPacificAmerican.StudentServices@unco.edu)

### **Cesar Chavez Cultural Center & DREAMer Engagement Program (Cultural Center)**

1410 20th St  
Greeley, CO 80639  
(970) 351-2424

[ChavezCenter@unco.edu](mailto:ChavezCenter@unco.edu)

### **Center for Women's and Gender Equity (Resource Center) & Stryker Institute for Leadership Development**

1915 10th Ave  
Greeley, CO 80639  
970-351-1492

[cwge@unco.edu](mailto:cwge@unco.edu)

### **Center for Gender and Sexuality (Resource Center)**

2215 10th Ave., Campus Box 42  
Greeley, CO 80631  
970-353-0191

[gsrc@unco.edu](mailto:gsrc@unco.edu)

### **Marcus Garvey Cultural Center (Cultural Center)**

928 20th St., Campus Box 41  
Greeley, CO 80639  
(970) 351-2351

[MGCC@unco.edu](mailto:MGCC@unco.edu)

### **Native American Services (Cultural Center)**

924 20th St  
Greeley, CO 80639  
(970) 351-1909

[AsianPacificAmerican.StudentServices@unco.edu](mailto:AsianPacificAmerican.StudentServices@unco.edu)

**Veteran's Services (Resource Center)**

1815 8th Ave  
Greeley, CO 80631  
970-351-1403

[timothy.nellett@unco.edu](mailto:timothy.nellett@unco.edu)

**Food Insecurity and Basic Needs**

Knowing that food insecurity is experienced at higher rates among college students, UNC offers assistance to students facing food insecurity through an on-campus food pantry. The Bear Pantry is located in University Center 2166A and is open for regular hours throughout the semester. Please



# Guidelines for the Use of Technology

Responsible use of the UNC ASLIS technologies and services (i.e., Canvas, audio conferencing, etc.) requires that both student and staff follow these guidelines. You are to:

- Respect the rights of others by

work/life. Sensitivity of this reality is very important. As students, you are all aware of these issues. In a distance environment, where you may rarely see the face of another student, it can be challenging to relate





**Quality Instruction Preparing  
Culturally and Linguistically Competent  
Teachers of American Sign Language**