



OAKLAND
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

**Oakland Community College
American Sign Language (ASL) Program Planning
Model Analysis**

Preliminary Report

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August 2003

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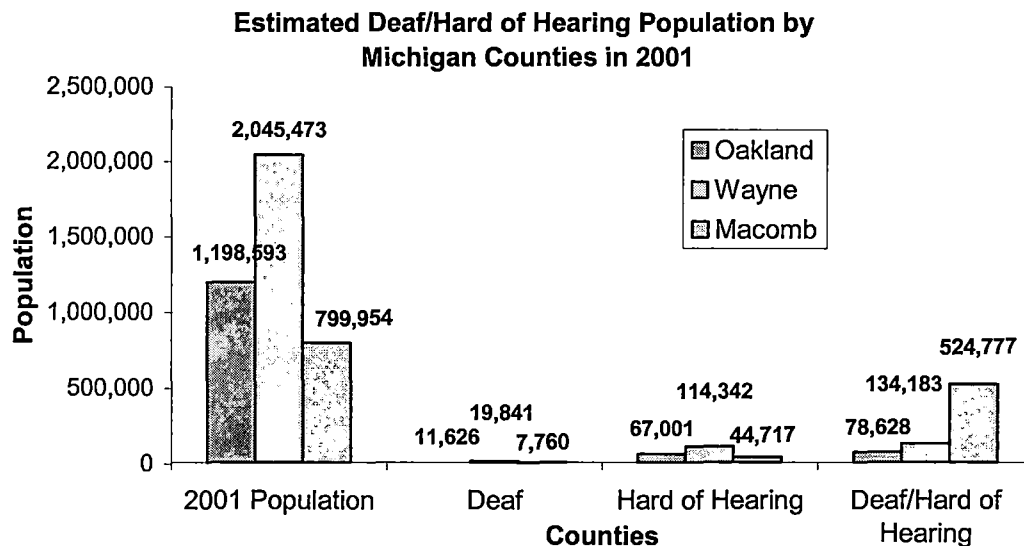
**Oakland Community College
American Sign Language (ASL) Program Planning Model Analysis
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Executive Summary

Overview

In order to develop sufficient marketing efforts and effectively prepare students for successful careers in American Sign Language as an Interpreter/Translator, the marketing team at Oakland Community College would like to expand their awareness of other American Sign Language programs and determine who employs these individuals, exactly what employers are looking for in a potential employee, preferred educational requirements, the demand for individuals specializing in the field, typical career path(s), salary range, the impact of education/certification on salary and the typical work environment. This report evaluates different organizations, agencies, institutions and companies that are known to utilize the services of translators/interpreters, are members of organizations that provide assistance or support to the deaf community, and/or are affiliated with organizations dedicated to aiding the deaf community in Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties. In addition, this report evaluates each program, college, school and/or organization based upon the four P's of marketing:

Product	Courses, services, and other key benefits offered to students;
Place	Where students attend courses, including online and satellite campuses;
Price	The cost of attending the program; and
Promotion	How the institution and/or organization inform students of their program(s)



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The Sign Language Interpreter is a person specially trained to aid in communication between the deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing communities. Employment opportunities may be in educational settings, freelance, or contracted with agencies to provide interpreter services for deaf persons. State certification for interpreters is required by taking the Quality Assurance Examination as issued through the Division on Deafness in the Department of Labor for the State of Michigan.

Methodology

Information in this report was derived via U.S. mail (brochures, booklets, catalogs and course schedules), institution or organization websites, student surveys, informative meetings with representatives from DeafCan, and telephone conversations with colleges, schools and/or other organizations contacts.

Key Findings

- “Sign language for the deaf was first standardized in France during the 18th century by Abbot Charles-Michel l'Épée. French Sign Language (FSL) was brought to the United States in 1816 by Thomas Gallaudet, founder of the American School for the Deaf in Hartford, Conn.
- The National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) started in 1965 and has only been certifying interpreters since 1972.
- A Sign Language Interpreter is specially trained to assist in communication between the deaf, hard of hearing and hearing communities.
- As of 2001, the estimated deaf/hard of hearing population for Oakland County, including all ages, was 78,628 (6.6%) out of a total population of 1,198,593 residents.
- Although certification or a formal collegiate education in American Sign Language is not a requirement, most employers generally prefer it.
- They work in many different environments, part-time, full-time, freelance and salaried.
- There are three other academic institutions in Michigan that offer programs in American Sign Language (SLS). All three programs are state-approved interpreter-training programs. Those institutions include Mott Community College, Lansing Community College, and Madonna University.
- Mott Community College offers an Interpreter Education, Associate in Applied Science degree.
- Lansing Community College offers a Sign Language Interpreter, Certificate of Achievement; and a Sign Language Interpreter, Associate in Applied Arts Degree.
- Madonna University offers a Certificate, an Associate's and a Bachelor's Degree in Sign Language Studies.
- There is a greater need for interpreters with the recent changes in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), such as their push to increase employment opportunities and accommodations for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Key Findings Continued

- Graduates have found employment in state and local governmental agencies as well as private and public sectors.
- Michigan requires interpreters working with grades K-12 to have graduated from a state-approved program, but most experience comes from long-term on-the-job training.
- Salaries range from \$10,000 to \$45,000 per year depending on region, employer, education and experience.
- Michigan Educational Interpreter requirements are detailed in rule 340.1793 of the Deaf Person's Interpreters Act for the State of Michigan.

(2) An interpreter for the deaf shall be any of the following: (a) A certified interpreter as defined in Act No. 204 of the Public Acts of 1982, being §393.501 et seq. of the Michigan Compiled Laws, and known as the deaf persons interpreters act. (b) A qualified interpreter as defined in Act No. 204 of the Public Acts of 1982, being §393.501 et seq. of Michigan Compiled Laws, and known as the deaf persons interpreters act who has been approved at quality assurance level II or III. (c) A high school graduate, or equivalent, with advanced training in a community college or degree-granting institution whose training program has been approved by the department.

The History of American Sign Language [Industry Needs #20]

"Sign language for the deaf was first standardized in France during the 18th century by Abbot Charles-Michel l'Epée. French Sign Language (FSL) was brought to the United States in 1816 by Thomas Gallaudet, founder of the American School for the Deaf in Hartford, Conn. He developed American Sign Language (ASL), a language of gestures and hand symbols that express words and concepts. It is the fourth most used language in the United States today.

In most respects, sign language is just like any spoken language, with a rich vocabulary and a highly organized, rule-governed grammar. The only difference is that in sign language, information is processed through the eyes rather than the ears. Thus, facial expression and body movement play an important part in conveying information.

In spoken language, the relationship between most words and the objects and concepts they represent is arbitrary—there is nothing about the word "tree" that actually suggests a tree, either in the way it is spelled or pronounced. In the same way, in sign language most signs do not suggest, or imitate, the thing or idea they represent, and must be learned. Sign language may be acquired naturally as a child's first language, or it may be learned through study and practice. Like any living language, ASL grows and changes over time to accommodate user needs. ASL also has regional varieties, equivalent to spoken accents, with different signs being used in different parts of the country."¹

According to the Family Independence Agency (FIA), Sign Language Interpreting is a relatively new profession. The National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) was established in 1965 and has only been certifying interpreters since 1972. When Public Act 204 (Deaf Person's Interpreter Act) was passed in Michigan, DOD (The Division of the Deaf) realized that there were few nationally certified interpreters. PA (Public Act) 204 was the first step in addressing interpreter quality when persons were not certified. PA 204 of 1982 states:

An act to provide for and regulate the use of interpreters in administrative and judicial proceedings and in certain other instances; to establish standards for interpreters; and to provide compensation for interpreters, and to provide for promulgation of rules.²

¹ <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0200808.html> American Sign Language: June 11, 2003

² Family Independence Agency www.michigan.gov/fia/0,1607,7-124-5460_7260_21376-1487800-.html (May 03, 2003).

² Family Independence Agency www.michigan.gov/fia/0,1607,7-124-5460_7260_21376-1487800-.html (May 02, 2003).

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid

The State Quality Assurance (QA) Screening program was modeled after the national RID's program. The QA program has improved the access for deaf and hard of hearing persons and, as a result, the quality of interpreting services is better. QA interpreters follow the same code of ethics as nationally certified interpreters and must obtain continuing education units yearly to keep their qualification level current.³ The State of Michigan certification levels are described in detail below.

State of Michigan Certificate Level Descriptions [Benefit to Student #5]

QA LEVEL III:

Intermediate Skill Level: demonstrated ability to interpret/transliterate communication between hearing and deaf or hard of hearing persons with a minimum of 88% accuracy. Recommended for situations where there may not be an opportunity for the interpreter to stop communication for clarification. Examples: education/tutorial situations, informal meetings and daily living skills, training, public meetings, interviews.⁴

QA LEVEL II:

Limited Skill Level: demonstrated ability to interpret/transliterate communication between hearing and deaf or hard of hearing persons with a minimum of 74% accuracy. Recommended for one-to-one or small group situations where the interpreter may or may not have the opportunity to stop communication for clarification. Examples: education/tutorial situations, informal meetings and daily living skills training.⁵

QA LEVEL I:

Restricted Skill Level: demonstrated ability to interpret/transliterate communication between hearing and deaf or hard of hearing persons with a minimum of 60% accuracy. Recommended mainly for one-to-one situations where the interpreter has the opportunity to stop communication for clarification. Examples: Social/recreational situations, non-technical and informal meetings.⁶

⁶ Family Independence Agency www.michigan.gov/fia/0,1607,7-124-5460_7260_21376-1487800-htm1 (May 02, 2003).

Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing

This branch of the State of Michigan focuses on helping improve the lives of Michigan's one million Deaf and Hard of Hearing citizens. It obtains advice from its thirteen member Citizens Advisory Council appointed by the Governor and provides the following services:

Technical Support [Technological Advances]

- Assist deaf and hard of hearing persons with referrals to public or private agencies dealing with their specific problems or concerns.
- Assist employers, educational institutions, service agencies, and businesses with suggestions to make their programs and services accessible to deaf and hard of hearing persons in compliance with state and federal laws.
- Analyze legislation and present testimony to the legislature on issues affecting deaf or hard of hearing persons.
- Assist other state agencies to assure that the needs of deaf and hard of hearing persons are considered in policy development.

Communication and Referral Services [Used to reach family/friends of the deaf]

- Respond to public inquiries regarding deafness.
- Provide Orientation to Deafness seminars.
- Publish THE DOD BULLETIN.
- Publish THE MICHIGAN TTY/SERVICE, AND INTERPRETER DIRECTORY.
- Maintain and distribute statistical data related to deaf and hard of hearing persons.
- Maintain a statewide list of services for deaf and hard of hearing persons.
- Refer expert witnesses.
- Conduct general workshops and seminars. Conduct annual DOD Silent Retreat.

Accommodations/ Services

- Consult on communication barriers or access as related to deaf and hard of hearing persons.
- Provide information and training on TTYs (telecommunication device for the deaf) and signaling devices.
- Provide information and training on assistive listening devices (ALDs).
- Loan TTYs or Assistive Listening Devices on a temporary basis to governmental agencies, organizations, or for special events.
- Maintain the list of trainers for hearing/service dogs.
- Maintain a list of assistive devices and providers or dealers.

Interpreter Information and Services

- Consult with the appointing authorities on the need and use of qualified or certified interpreters.
- Assist state agencies and the public in locating qualified oral and sign language interpreters.
- Administer the statewide Quality Assurance Interpreter Screening Program as required by the Public Act No. 204 of 1982.
- Provide technical assistance to interpreters.
- Conduct interpreter information workshops.
- Provide interpreting services to state government agencies.

Research and Statistics

- Conduct research.
- Publish research report.
- Gather statistical data on deaf and hard of hearing people.⁷

⁷Family Independence Agency www.michigan.gov/fia/0,1607,7-124-5460_7260_21376-14878-00.html (May 02, 2003).

The Sign Language/Interpretation Profession

According to the Family Independence Agency (FIA), Sign Language Interpreting is a relatively new profession. The National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) started in 1965 and has only been certifying interpreters since 1972. When Public Act 204 (Deaf Person's Interpreter Act) was passed in Michigan, DOD (The Division of the Deaf) realized that there were few nationally certified interpreters. PA (Public Act) 204 was the first step in addressing interpreter quality when persons were not certified. PA 204 of 1982 states:

An act to provide for and regulate the use of interpreters in administrative and judicial proceedings and in certain other instances; to establish standards for interpreters; and to provide compensation for interpreters, and to provide for promulgation of rules.⁸

Nature of the Job

A Sign Language Interpreter is specially trained to assist in communication between the deaf, hard of hearing and hearing communities⁹. This individual must be focused, accurate and dedicated to their duties and responsibilities. They must keep in mind that their ability to effectively train and communicate, has a direct impact on the degree of understanding the individual or individuals interpreters are intended to serve. Many with educational backgrounds and/or certification in the Sign Language/Interpretation field typically find employment with state and local governmental agencies as well as the private and public sectors.¹⁰

Work Environment

Interpreters work in a variety of settings including medical, legal, religious, mental health, rehabilitation, performing arts, and business.¹¹

⁸ http://www.michigan.gov/fia/0,1607,7-124-5460_7260_21376-1487800-htm Family Independence Agency: May 03, 2003.

⁹ http://www.lcc.edu/communication/sign_lang/careers/ Lansing Community College: May 02, 2003.

¹⁰ http://www.lcc.edu/communication/sign_lang/careers/ Lansing Community College: May 02, 2003.

¹¹ <http://www.rid.org/terpfag.html> Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Interpreting and ITP Frequently Asked Questions: May 05, 2003

American Sign Language as a Foreign Language

When one thinks of a foreign language, culture automatically comes to mind. Of course the most popular ones almost all of us remain familiar with from the high school years include Spanish, French, Italian, Japanese and Russian, just to name a few. However, American Sign Language might have never crossed our minds, let alone be included in this list.

Education and Training

Although certification or a formal collegiate education in American Sign Language is not a requirement, most employers generally prefer it. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires qualified interpreters/translators in a variety of settings. It states "To satisfy this requirement, the interpreter must have the proven ability to effectively communicate..." One important measure of an interpreter's proven ability is professional credentials.¹² Those credentials may include a certificate, a college degree and/or passing an assessment exam measuring the necessary skills. The National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) and the National Association for the Deaf (NAD) provides national certification testing accepted by employers. In addition to these agencies, state agencies may also provide testing on the state level, providing acceptable credentials for employers.

Salaries vary depending on many factors including geographical location, education, experience and credentials.¹³ Freelance interpreters might earn anywhere from \$12-\$40 an hour. Interpreters employed by agencies earn anywhere from \$15,000-\$30,000 per year depending on the agency and level of credentials. Highly skilled, credentialed interpreters may earn anywhere from \$40,000-\$50,000 per year.¹⁴

Job Outlook

There is a strong need for qualified interpreters with credentials, the field is rapidly expanding. Schools, government agencies, religious institutions and private businesses employ interpreters. They work in many different environments, part-time, full-time, freelance and salaried. The rule is, the more mobile the individual is the more marketable they become. Hence, the more likely the individual will find employment in the interpreting field.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ <http://www.rid.org/terpfag.html> Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Interpreting and ITP Frequently Asked Questions: May 05, 2003

¹⁴ Ibid.

Barriers Faced by Those with Disabilities

[Occupational Conditions # 23&24] [Benefit to Student #8]

Despite the large deaf/hard of hearing population in Michigan (655,398), there are only three academic institutions that offer degree programs in Sign Language and/or Language Interpretation fields. All programs offered are state-approved interpreter-training programs. Those institutions include Mott Community College, Lansing Community College and Madonna University. However, there remains a greater need for interpreters due to the recent changes in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and their efforts to increase opportunities and accommodations for the deaf and hard of hearing. Hence, there are several organizations that maintain a membership with the Michigan Coalition for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing People and consistently work toward improving accessibility and services for Michigan's Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. In light of this evidence, it should come as no surprise that although many people with disabilities are being employed and remaining employed, the unemployment rate for this group is unacceptably high, almost twice that of the national average.¹⁵ Three major reasons cited by adults with disabilities perpetuating their unemployment were the lack of jobs or information about jobs available, unsuitable accommodations for their particular disability and being uninformed of specific accommodations that might make work possible.¹⁶

Education and Training [Occupational Conditions #24]

Michigan requires interpreters working with grades K-12 to have graduated from a state approved program; nevertheless most experience comes from long-term on-the-job training.¹⁷ Many employers, along with continual and periodic classes and certification, require an associate's degree. A bachelor's degree will be helpful in making one more competitive in the field.

¹⁵ Statistics About people with Disabilities and Employment www.dol.gov/odep/pubs/ek01/stats.htm (May 05, 2003).

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Lansing Community College Career Facts for Sign Language Interpreter www.lcc.edu/communication/sign_lang/careers/ (May 02, 2003).

Typical Places of Employment [Occupational Conditions #25]

Many with educational backgrounds and/or certification in the Sign Language/Interpretation field typically find employment in Social Work, Counseling, and Teaching for the Deaf. Graduates have found employment in state and local governmental agencies as well as the private and public sectors.¹⁸

Salary and Wages Earned [Occupational Conditions #23]

Salaries range from \$10,000 to \$45,000 depending on region, employer, education and experience.¹⁹ Some part-time interpreters and/or freelancers might earn between \$20 and \$45 per hour, it depending on education, training, experience and employer.

1999 National Occupational Employment Estimates and Mean Wage Estimates for Interpreters and Translators

Employment	\$13,640	RSE=5.55%
Mean Hourly Wage	\$14.16	RSE=2.0%
Mean Annual Wage	429,450	RSE=2.0%

<http://www.bls.gov/oes/1999/oes273091.html>

Percentile Wage Estimates for Interpreters and Translators

Percentile	10%	25%	50% Median	75%	90%
Hourly Wage	\$7.70	\$10.02	\$12.94	\$16.88	\$21.66
Annual Wage	\$16,010	\$20,840	\$26,920	\$35,110	\$45,050

<http://www.bls.gov/oes/1999/oes273091.html>

¹⁰ Lansing Community College Career Facts for Sign Language Interpreter www.lcc.edu/communication/sign_lang/careers/ (May 02, 2003).

¹¹ Ibid

Institutions/Organizations

Mott Community College (MCC)

Mott Community College offers an Associates of Applied Science, Interpreter Education degree from its Humanities department. Their program, American Sign Language and Sign Language Interpreter Education prepares students to communicate effectively in American Sign Language (ASL) and other forms of sign communication. As indicated on MCC's website,

"Upon successful completion of the program, students will have basic entry level skills in sign language interpreting/transliterating and a working knowledge of the Registry of Interpreters for the deaf (RID) and National Association of the Deaf (NAD) Code of Ethics. This program provides for interaction with the local deaf community, deaf instructors and deaf tutors."²⁰

MCC District Resident Tuition for the 2002-2003 school year is \$62.85 per contact hour per semester. To qualify for College District status, permanent residence must be established within the College District 30 days prior to the beginning of classes. Michigan resident tuition is \$90.70 per contact hour per semester. To qualify for Michigan resident status, permanent residence must be established in Michigan but outside the College District 30 days prior to the beginning of classes.

Tuition for Michigan Non-Residents is \$121.00 per contact hour per semester. A Michigan non-resident is one whose permanent residence is outside the state of Michigan. All foreign-born students in the U.S. on student Visas or whose permanent residence is outside of the state of Michigan, are considered non-residents regardless of residence in the college district or state of Michigan. Fees range from \$5 to \$150 for classes using specialized equipment or laboratory supplies. Registration fees are \$44.15 each semester and session.²¹

Program requirements for Interpreter Training

1. A final grade of 3.0 or higher for each SLIE course, or permission from program coordinator.
2. At least a 13th grade reading comprehension level on MCC Placement Test.
3. A Sign Communication Proficiency Interview score of Survival Plus or above (passing or above).

[Competition #12, 15, 26; College Flexibility #9, 10; College Resource Commitment #17]

²⁰ Mott Community College: Program Guides <http://www4.mcc.edu.edu/programs.nsf/ViewName/> (April 01, 2003).

²¹ Mott Community College: Registration http://www.mcc.edu/5_registration/reg_tuition.shtml (April 01, 2003).

Mott Community College (Continued)

General Education Requirements (Category I)

English 101 and English 102

(Category II) At least one course in each of the following categories:

- A. Humanities
- B. Social Sciences
- C. Natural/Technical Laboratory Science

(Category III) Complete all of the following:

- A. Multi-cultural Ethnic Studies—One course
- B. Speaking Across the Curriculum—One course
- C. Scientific Method—One course
- D. Writing Across the Curriculum—Two courses
- E. Computer Across the Curriculum—One course

(Category IV Mathematics) Complete one of the following:

- A. MATH 160
- B. Math portion of the ACT or SAT
- C. Math 101
- D. Math 021, MATT 094, or BUSN 106, FMG 104
- E. Mathematic Across the Curriculum

Occupational Specialty

ASL 101	American Sign Language I	3
ASL 102	American Sign Language II	4
ASL 105	Expressive & Receptive Fingerspelling	1
ASL 110	Introduction to Deaf Culture	3
SLIE 103	American Sign Language III	4
SLIE 204	American Sign Language IV	4
SLIE 205	American Sign Language V	4
SLIE 206	Linguistics of ASL	4
SLIE 210	Current Issues in Deafness	3
SLIE 215	Professional Responsibility	3
SLIE 220	Processing Skills Development	3
SLIE 245	Introduction to Deaf Blind Interpreting	3
SLIE 230	ASL to English I	3
SLIE 231	ASL to English II	3
SLIE 240	Interpreting & Transliterating I	3
SLIE 241	Interpreting & Transliterating II	3

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Mott Community College (MCC)

SLIE 250	Educational Interpreting	3
SLIE 290	Practicum I	3
SLIE 290	Practicum II	3

60 Total Credit hours

Lansing Community College

Lansing Community College offers a Sign Language Interpreter Associate in Applied Arts Degree as well as a Sign Language Interpreter Certificate of Achievement LCC has been training and producing Sign Language Interpreters since 1978.²² They market their program via the Internet, brochures, catalog and on the RID (Registry of Interpreters) website. The cost of this program is as follows:

The registration fee, which is applied each semester one is enrolled, is \$20.00. This fee pays for some of the cost of registration for each semester. College District Resident Students pay \$51.00 per credit hour. Out-of-District Students pay \$81.00 per credit hour. An out-of-state student pays \$111.00 per credit hour. International Students pay \$111.00 per credit hour. In addition to the registration fee and cost per credit, students also pay an activity fee. The activity fee is broken down in the three following ways:²³

[Competition #12, 15, 26; College Flexibility #9, 10; College Resource Commitment #17]

0 through 6 credits	\$1.50*
Above 6 through 11 credits	\$4.50*
Above 11 or more credits	\$7.50*

*Fees effective fall semester 2002.

The online course fee is \$10.00 and will be applied to all online courses.

Sign Language Interpreter Associate in Applied Arts Degree

REQUIREMENTS		TOTAL: 53 CREDITS
CODE	TITLE	CREDIT HOURS
SIGN 160	Orientation to Deafness	2
SIGN 161	American Sign Language I	3
SIGN 162	American Sign Language II	3
SIGN 163	American Sign Language III	3
SIGN 166	Fingerspelling	2
SIGN 167	Beginning Sign to Voice	3
SIGN 168	Expressive Manual Communication	2
SIGN 170	Creative Arts Signing	2
SIGN 176	Advanced Fingerspelling	2
SIGN 240	Interpreting/Transliterating	3

²² Lansing Community College: Tuition and Fees
http://www.lcc.edu/communication.sign_lang/faq.htm (May 02, 2003)

²³ Lansing Community College: General Information
http://www.lcc.edu/schedule/GeneralInformation/tuition_fees.htm (May 02, 2003).

Lansing Community College (Continued)

SIGN 250	Deaf Culture and History	3
SIGN 260	Linguistic Principles of ASL	3
SIGN 261	Principles of Interpreting	3
SIGN 262	Mock Quality Assurance (QA)	3
SIGN 263	Intermediate Sign to Voice	3
SIGN 264	Advanced Sign to Voice	3
SIGN 265	Adv Interpreting/Transliterating	3
SIGN 267	Sign Internship I	3
SIGN 268	Sign Internship II	3
SIGN 295	Indep. Study in Sign Language	1-3

LIMITED CHOICE REQUIREMENTS

TOTAL: 12 CREDITS

Complete the indicated number of credits from each **CHOICE** listed below.

CHOICE 1: General Education Core Areas

12 Credits

Writing Core Area	3
Speech Communication Core Area	3
Science/Technology Core Area	3
Global Perspectives and Diversity Core Area	3
Mathematics Competency	

MINIMUM TOTAL

65

Sign Language Interpreter Certificate of Achievement

REQUIREMENTS

TOTAL: 34 CREDITS

CODE	TITLE	CREDIT HOURS
SIGN 160	Orientation to Deafness	2
SIGN 161	American Sign Language I	3
SIGN 162	American Sign Language II	3
SIGN 163	American Sign Language III	3
SIGN 166	Fingerspelling	2
SIGN 167	Beginning Sign to Voice	3
SIGN 240	Interpreting/Transliterating	3
SIGN 261	Principles of Interpreting	3
SIGN 262	Mock Quality Assurance (QA)	3
SIGN 263	Intermediate Sign to Voice	3
SIGN 267	Sign Internship I	3
SIGN 268	Sign Internship II	3

LIMITED CHOICE REQUIREMENTS

TOTAL: 2-3 CREDITS

Lansing Community College (Continued)

Complete the indicated number of credits from each **CHOICE** listed below.

CHOICE 1: Related Professional Courses	2-3 Credits
SIGN 164 American Sign Language IV	3
SIGN 168 Expressive Manual Communication	2
SIGN 170 Creative Arts Signing	2
SIGN 176 Advanced Fingerspelling	2
SIGN 250 Deaf Culture and History	3
SIGN 260 Linguistic Principles of ASL	3
SIGN 264 Advanced Sign to Voice	3
SIGN 265 Adv Interpreting/Transliterating	3
SIGN 294 Sign Interpreting Seminar	2
MINIMUM TOTAL	36

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Madonna University [Competition #12, 15, 26; College Flexibility #9, 10; College Resource Commitment #17]

Madonna University offers a Certificate, an Associate's and a Bachelor's Degree in Sign Language Studies. The Sign Language studies program is housed at the College of Arts and Humanities in the SLS Department. "The Sign Language Studies (SLS) of Madonna University has been offering courses and programs of study in American Sign Language, Deaf Culture, Deafness and Interpreting since 1975."²⁴ It continues to be the only program of its kind in the United States thus far. Their program is marketed via the college website, catalogs, brochures and the RID website. The cost of this program is as follows:

Tuition Rates for 2003-2004	
Semester Hours	Undergraduate
1	\$300.00
2	\$600.00
3	\$900.00
4	\$1,200.00
5	\$1,500.00
6	\$1,800.00
7	\$2,100.00
8	\$2,400.00
9	\$2,700.00
10	\$3,000.00
11	\$3,300.00
12	\$3,600.00
13	\$3,900.00
14	\$4,200.00
15	\$4,500.00
Room and Board	
Double Room	\$1,250.00 Per Term
Suite	\$1,450.00 Per Term
Private Room	\$1,800.00 Per Term
20 Meal Plan	\$1,472.00 Per Term
15 Meal Plan	\$1,440.00 Per Term
Room Deposit	\$75.00
Room Damage	\$100.00
Other Fees	
LATE REGISTRATION FEE, \$100	
FOR ALL RETURNING STUDENTS, AS OF THE FIRST WEEK OF	
THE FALL/WINTER SEMESTERS	
Credit by Exam	\$53.00 Per Hour
Testing Fee	\$25.00 Per Evaluation
Registration Fee	\$50.00 Per Term
Deferred Fee	\$15.00 Per Term
International Tuition Rates Undergraduate Tuition	
\$375.75 Per Hour	

Source: Madonna University: Prospective Students and Visitors
<http://madonna2.siteobjects.com/pages/2002tuitionrates.cfm> (5/5/03)

²⁴ Madonna University: Prospective Students and Visitors
<http://Madonna2siteobjects.com?pages/slsprograms.cfm> (May 05, 2003).

Madonna University (Continued)

The program(s) consists of the following classes:

REQUIREMENTS	CREDITS
Sign Language Studies Core Requirements	
1000 Introduction to Sign Language Studies	3
1010 Beginning American Sign Language I	4
1020 Beginning American Sign Language II	4
2010 Intermediate American Sign Language I	4
2020 Intermediate American Sign Language II	4
2280 Fingerspelling I	1
2290 Fingerspelling II	1
3010 Advanced American Sign Language I	3
3020 Advanced American Sign Language II	3
4620 Sign Language Structure	4
Electives (a minimum of 14 semester hours)	
SLS Professional Studies Program	
2110 Orientation to Deafness	3
3310 Deaf Culture	3
3450 Deafness and Community Resources	3
4010 American Sign Language: Discourse	3
4020 American Sign Language: Deaf Literature	3
4280 Simultaneous Communication	3
SLS Interpreting Program	
4410 Fundamentals of Interpretations & Transliteration	4
4450 Basic Simultaneous Interpretation for Interpreters	3
4610 Voice to Sign: Interpreting Lab	3
4650 Contrastive Text Analysis: ASL & English for Interpreters	3
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Source: SLS Programs of Study, <http://madonna2.siteobjects.com/pages/slsprograms.cfm>

APPENDIX

Oakland Community College
American Sign Language (ASL) Program Planning Model Analysis
August 2003

American Sign Language Act (State)

Act No. 18 Public Acts of 1987 Approved by the Governor April 23, 1987

Filed with the Secretary of State April 24, 1987

STATE OF MICHIGAN 84TH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 1987

Introduced by Senators Barcia, Pollack, Fredricks, Cherry and Kelly

ENROLLED SENATE BILL No. 37

An act to amend Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1976, entitled as amended " An act to provide a system of public instruction and elementary and secondary schools: to revise. Consolidate, and classify the laws relating to elementary and secondary education; to provide for the classification, organization, regulation, and maintenance of schools, school districts, and intermediate school districts; to prescribe rights, powers, duties, and privileges of schools, school districts, and intermediate school districts; to provide for school elections and to prescribe powers and duties with respect thereto: to provide for the levy and collection of taxes; to provide for the borrowing of money and issuance of bonds and other evidences of indebtedness: to provide for and prescribe the powers and duties of certain boards and officials; to provide for licensure of boarding schools; to prescribe penalties; and to repeal certain acts and parts of acts" as amended, being sections 380.1 to 380.1852 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, by adding section 1157b.

The people of the State of Michigan enact:

Section 1. Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1976. as amended. being sections 380.1 to 380.1852 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, is amended by adding section 1157b to read as follows:

Sec. 1157b. The board of a school district may grant high school credit in a foreign language to a pupil enrolled in high school who has satisfactorily completed a high school course offered in American sign language or who has attained proficiency in American sign language outside of a public or private high school curriculum.²⁵

²⁵ National Association of the Deaf Table of State Laws and Regulations on Requirements of Interpreters, www.nad.org/infocenter/infotogo/asl/InterpStateLwas.html (May 05, 2003)

Deaf Person's Interpreter Act (State)

Act 204 of 1982

An act to provide for and regulate the use of interpreters in administrative and judicial proceedings and in certain other instances; to establish standards for interpreters; and to provide compensation for interpreters, and to provide for promulgation of rules.

History: 1982, Act 204, Imd. Eff. July 1, 1982.

The people of the State of Michigan enact:

393.501 Short title.

Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "deaf persons' interpreters act".

History: 1982, Act 204, Imd. Eff. July 1, 1982.

393.502 Definitions.

Sec. 2. As used in this act:

(a) "Appointing authority" means a court or a department, board, commission, agency, or licensing authority of this state or a political subdivision of this state.

(b) "Certified interpreter" means, depending upon the need of the deaf person, either a certified oral interpreter or a certified sign language interpreter.

(c) "Certified oral interpreter" means a person who is able to convey information through facial and lip movement, and is certified by an organization which the division of deaf and deafened of the department of labor determines is an organization nationally recognized for the certification of persons who interpret for deaf persons.

(d) "Certified sign language interpreter" means an interpreter who uses sign language to convey information and who is certified by an organization which the division of deaf and deafened of the department of labor determines is an organization nationally recognized for the certification of persons who interpret for deaf persons.

(e) "Deaf person" means a person whose hearing is totally impaired or whose hearing, with or without amplification, is so seriously impaired that the primary means of receiving spoken language is through other sensory input; including, but not limited to, lip reading, sign language, finger spelling, or reading.

(f) "Intermediary interpreter" means any person, including any hearing impaired person, who is able to assist in providing an accurate interpretation between spoken English and sign language or between variants of sign language by acting as an intermediary between a hearing impaired person and a certified interpreter or qualified interpreter.

(g) "Qualified interpreter" means a person who is not a certified interpreter but whose qualifications for interpreting for deaf persons are determined by the division of deaf and

deafened of the department of labor, with the advice of the Michigan Association of Deaf Citizens and Michigan registry of interpreters for the deaf or their successor agencies, to be appropriate for interpreting for deaf persons.

History: 1982, Act 204, Imd. Eff. July 1, 1982.

393.503 Right of deaf persons to certified or qualified interpreter in proceeding before court, grand jury, or appointing authority; appointment of interpreter; waiver; preliminary determination; intermediary interpreter.

Sec. 3. (1) In any action before a court or a grand jury where a deaf person is a participant in the action, either as a plaintiff, defendant, or witness, the court shall appoint a certified interpreter or in its discretion, appoint a qualified interpreter, to interpret the proceedings to the deaf person, to interpret the deaf person's testimony or statements, and to assist in preparation of the action with the deaf person's counsel.

(2) In a proceeding before an appointing authority, other than a court, the appointing authority shall appoint a certified interpreter or in its discretion, appoint a qualified interpreter, to interpret the proceedings to the deaf person and to interpret the deaf person's testimony or statements in any proceeding before the appointing authority.

(3) The right of a deaf person to a certified interpreter or qualified interpreter shall not be waived except by a request for waiver in writing by the deaf person. A written waiver of a plaintiff or defendant is subject to the approval of the deaf person's counsel and the approval of the appointing authority.

(4) A certified interpreter or qualified interpreter shall not be appointed unless the appointing authority and the deaf person make a preliminary determination that that certified interpreter or qualified interpreter is able to readily communicate with the deaf person and to interpret the proceedings in which the deaf person is involved.

(5) If a certified interpreter or qualified interpreter states that the interpreter is unable to render a satisfactory interpretation and that an intermediary interpreter will improve the quality of the interpretation, the appointing authority shall appoint an intermediary interpreter to assist the certified interpreter or qualified interpreter.

History: 1982, Act 204, Imd. Eff. July 1, 1982.

393.504 Notification of need for or right to interpreter; proof of deafness.

Sec. 4. (1) Each deaf person whose appearance in an action or other proceeding entitles the deaf person to a certified interpreter or qualified interpreter shall notify the appointing authority of the need of a certified interpreter or qualified interpreter before the appearance.

(2) An appointing authority, when it knows a deaf person is, or will be coming before it, shall inform the deaf person of the right to a certified interpreter or qualified interpreter.

(3) An appointing authority may require a person requesting the appointment of a certified interpreter or qualified interpreter to furnish reasonable proof of the person's deafness, if the appointing authority has reason to believe that the person is not deaf.

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History: 1982, Act 204, Imd. Eff. July 1, 1982.

393.505 Arrest of deaf person; procuring interpreter; admissibility of statements made without interpreter.

Sec. 5. (1) If a deaf person is arrested and taken into custody for any alleged violation of a criminal law of this state, the arresting officer and the officer's supervisor shall procure a certified interpreter or qualified interpreter in order to properly interrogate the deaf person and to interpret the deaf person's statements.

(2) A statement taken from a deaf person before a certified interpreter or qualified interpreter is present shall not be admissible in court.

History: 1982, Act 204 Imd. Eff. July 1, 1982.

393.506 oath or affirmation of interpreter; recess periods; information gathered by interpreter pertaining to pending proceeding confidential and privileged; waiver.

Sec. 6. (1) Before a certified interpreter or qualified interpreter participates in any action or other proceeding because of an appointment under this act, the certified interpreter or qualified interpreter shall make an oath or affirmation that the certified interpreter or qualified interpreter will make a true interpretation in an understandable manner to the deaf person for whom the certified interpreter or qualified interpreter is appointed and that the certified interpreter or qualified interpreter will interpret the statements of the deaf person in the English language to the best of the interpreter's skill. The appointing authority shall provide recess periods as necessary for the certified interpreter or qualified interpreter when the certified interpreter or qualified interpreter so indicates.

(2) The information that the certified interpreter, qualified interpreter, or intermediary interpreter gathers from the deaf person pertaining to any action or other proceeding then pending shall at all times remain confidential and privileged, unless the deaf person executes a written waiver allowing the information to be communicated to other persons and the deaf person is present at the time the information is communicated.

History: 1982, Act 204, Imd. Eff. July 1, 1982.

393.507 Fee and expenses of interpreter; payment; schedule of fees; duration of interpreter's availability.

Sec. 7. (1) A court appointed interpreter, qualified interpreter, or intermediary interpreter shall be paid a fee by the court which it determines to be reasonable. A certified interpreter, qualified interpreter, or intermediary interpreter appointed by an appointing authority other than a court shall be paid a fee by the appointing authority under a schedule of fees promulgated by the division of deaf and deafened of the department of labor with the advice of the Michigan registry of interpreter, for the deaf, pursuant to Act No. 306 of the Public Acts of 1969, as amended, being sections 24.201 to 24.315 of the Michigan Compiled Laws. In addition, a certified interpreter, qualified interpreter, or intermediary interpreter shall be paid for his or her actual expenses for travel, meals, and lodging.

(2) If the certified interpreter, qualified interpreter, or intermediary interpreter is appointed by an appointing authority other than a court, the fee shall be paid out of funds available to the appropriate appointing authority.

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(3) A certified interpreter or qualified interpreter appointed for the deaf person shall be available for the duration of the deaf person's participation in the action or other proceeding.

History: 1982, Act 204, Imd. Eff. July 1, 1982.

393.508 Channeling requests for interpreters through division on deafness; listing of interpreters.

Sec. 8. (1) The appointing authority shall channel requests for certified interpreters, qualified interpreters, and intermediary interpreters through the Division on Deafness of the Department of Labor.

(2) The Division on Deafness of the Department of Labor shall compile and update annually a listing of certified interpreters, qualified interpreters, and intermediary interpreters and shall make this listing available to an appointing authority which may need the services of a certified interpreter, qualified interpreter, or intermediary interpreter as required by this act.

History: 1982, Act 204 Imd. Eff. July 1, 1982;--Am. 1988, Act 435, Eff. Mar. 30, 1989.

393.509 Conditional effective date.

Sec. 9., This act shall not take effect unless Senate Bill No. 616 of the 81st Legislature is enacted into law.

History: 1982, Act 204, Imd. Eff. July 1, 1982.

Compiler's note: Senate Bill No. 616, referred to in this section, was approved by the Governor on July 1, 1982, and became P.A. 1982, No. 203, Imd. Eff. July 1, 1982.²⁶

²⁶ National Association of the Deaf Table of State Laws and Regulations on Requirements of Interpreters, www.nad.org/infocenter/infotogo/asl/InterpStateLwas.html (May 05, 2003)

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Estimated Deaf/Hearing Of Hearing Population by Michigan Counties

Estimated Deaf/Hard of Hearing Population By Michigan Counties, 2001 All Ages

County	Population*	Deaf/HH	Deaf	Hard of Hearing
MICHIGAN	9,990,817	655,398	96,911	558,487
ALCONA	11,651	764	113	651
ALGER	9,884	648	96	553
ALLEGAN	108,225	7,100	1,050	6,050
ALPENA	31,263	2,051	303	1,748
ANTRIM	23,610	1,549	229	1,320
ARENAC	17,310	1,136	168	968
BARAGA	8,735	573	85	488
BARRY	57,661	3,783	559	3,223
BAY	109,659	7,194	1,064	6,130
BENZIE	16,489	1,082	160	922
BERRIEN	161,820	10,615	1,570	9,046
BRANCH	45,726	3,000	444	2,556
CALHOUN	138,031	9,055	1,339	7,716
CASS	51,321	3,367	498	2,869
CHARLIEVOIX	26,458	1,736	257	1,479
CHEBOYGEN	26,960	1,769	262	1,507
CHIPPEWA	38,413	2,520	373	2,147
CLARE	31,398	2,060	305	1,755
CLINTON	65,883	4,322	639	3,683
CRAWFORD	14,626	959	142	818
DELTA	38,477	2,524	373	2,151
DICKINSON	27,284	1,790	265	1,525
EATON	104,837	6,877	1,017	5,860
EMMET	32,217	2,113	313	1,801
GENESEE	439,117	28,806	4,259	24,547
GLADWIN	26,507	1,739	257	1,482
GOBIC	17,670	1,159	171	988
GRAND TRAVERSE	80,203	5,261	778	4,483
GRATIOT	42,272	2,773	410	2,363
HILLSDALE	46,879	3,075	455	2,621
HOUGHTON	35,698	2,342	346	1,996
HURON	35,688	2,341	346	1,995
INGHAM	278,398	18,263	2,700	15,562
IONIA	62,111	4,074	602	3,472
IOSCO	27,162	1,782	263	1,518
IRON	12,915	847	125	722
ISABELLA	63,725	4,180	618	3,562
JACKSON	159,665	10,474	1,549	8,925
KALAMAZOO	238,544	15,648	2,314	13,335
KALKASKA	16,827	1,104	163	941
KENT	580,331	38,070	5,629	32,441
KEWEENAW	2,257	148	22	126
LAKE	11,630	763	113	650
LAPEER	89,728	5,886	870	5,016
LEELANAU	21,518	1,412	209	1,203
LENAWEE	99,605	6,534	966	5,568
LIVINGSTON	164,678	10,803	1,597	9,206

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LUCE	6,991	459	68	391
MACKINAC	11,782	773	114	659
MACOMB	799,954	52,477	7,760	44,717
MANISTEE	24,587	16,31	241	1,390
MARQUETTE	64,383	4,224	625	3,599
MASON	28,508	1,870	277	1,594
MECOSTA	41,011	2,690	398	2,293
MENOMINEE	25,246	1,656	245	1,411
MIDLAND	83,879	5,502	814	4,689
MISSAUKEE	14,672	962	142	820
MONROE	147,946	9,705	1,435	8,270
MONTCALM	61,828	4,056	600	3,456
MONTMORENCY	10,494	688	102	587
MUSKEGON	171,361	11,241	1,662	9,579
NEWAYGO	48,875	3,206	474	2,732
OAKLAND	1,198,593	78,628	11,626	67,001
OCEANA	27,321	1,792	265	1,527
OGEMAW	21,810	1,431	212	1,219
ONTONAGON	7,775	510	75	435
OSCEOLA	23,365	1,533	227	1,306
OSCODA	9,588	629	93	536
OTSEGO	23,818	1,562	231	1,331
OTTAWA	243,571	15,978	2,363	13,616
PRESQUE ISLE	14,440	947	140	807
ROSCOMMON	25,784	1,691	250	1,441
SAGINAW	209,461	13,741	2,032	11,709
ST. CLAIR	166,541	10,925	1,615	9,310
ST. JOSEPH	62,144	4,077	603	3,474
SANILAC	44,554	2,923	432	2,491
SCHOOLCRAFT	8,859	581	86	495
SHIAWASSEE	72,217	4,737	701	4,037
TUSCOLA	58,364	3,829	566	3,263
VAN BUREN	76,880	5,043	746	4,298
WASHTENAW	326,627	21,427	3,168	18,258
WAYNE	2,045,473	134,183	19,841	114,342
WEXFORD	30,779	2,019	299	1,721
TOTAL	9,990/817	655,398	96,911	558,487
PERCENTAGES		6.56%	0.97%	5.59%

The Deaf Population of the United States (Schein & Delk), 1974 and U.S. Census Bureau website: <http://www.census.gov/> for Michigan population data, November 2002

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American Sign Language (ASL) Program Planning Model Analysis
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Salary Survey of Sign Language Interpreters in Post-Secondary Settings										Apr-00
Salaried Staff							Hourly Staff			
Institution	Salary Range	Average Salary	Contract Months	Avg. Salary per Month	# Staff Positions	Hrs./week Interpreted	Hrs./week On Campus	Hourly Wage Range	Average Wage	# Hourly Positions
U. Of Arizona	\$23.5-\$27.5K	\$26.5K	10m	\$2,650	6	25	30	\$17-\$26/hr	\$21.50/hr	20
Arizona State U.	\$29.1-\$42.9K	\$19K	8m,9m,10m		19	30		\$14-\$19.75/hr	\$19/hr	0
U. of Arizona - Tuscon	\$19-\$27K	\$26K	10m	\$2,600	7	30		\$14-\$26/hr	\$26/hr	10
Arkansas at Little Rock	\$24-\$29K	\$25.5K	12m	\$2,125	2	20	40	\$10.50-\$25/hr	\$15/hr	14
U. of California-Davis	\$29-\$46K	\$38K	10m	\$3,800	5	30	(1)40hr,(4)20+	\$18-\$26/hr	NA	3
California State-Chico	\$16.1-\$49.2K	\$35K	12m	\$2,917	2	25-28	40	\$7.54-\$26.42	\$16/hr	4
Hinds Comm. College (MS)	\$20.3-\$35K	\$28.8K	9m	\$3,200	4	25-30		\$7.50-\$15/hr	\$11.45/hr	11
Holyoke Community Coll. (MA)					0			\$16-\$35/hr	\$25/hr	23
Iowa State U.					0			\$35-\$40/hr	\$38/hr	7
Lakeshore Tech. College (WI)					0			\$20/hr	\$20/hr	1
Madonna U. (MI)					0			\$8.50-\$35/hr	\$17/hr	15
Metropolitan Comm. Coll.(MO)					0			\$20-\$40/hr	\$30/hr	7
U. Of Michigan	\$28K or \$40K	\$28K or \$40K	12m	\$2333/\$3333	4		40	\$25 or \$30/hr	\$25/ 30/hr	1
Michigan State U.	\$20-\$32K	\$26K	(2)9m,(2)12m		4	26	30	\$18-\$30/hr	\$22/hr	2
Mid-State Tech. College (WI)					0			\$20	\$20/hr	2
Milwaukee Area Tech. Coll.	\$27.2-\$40K	\$33.4K	10m	\$33,340	10	18-24	(9)36.5,(2)40	\$20-\$27.50/hr	\$25/hr	13
U. Of Minnesota	\$23-\$35.2K	\$25.5K	(14)10m,(2)12		16	30	40	\$14-\$22/hr	\$16/hr	15
Moraine Park Tech. Coll. (WI)	\$20.4-\$27.7K	\$24.6K	9m	\$2,738	2	29	40			0
U. Of North Carolina					0			\$40	\$40/hr	2
U. of N.C. at Greensboro	\$21.8-\$35K	\$24.7K	10m	\$2,470	1	20	40	\$19-\$30/hr	\$26/hr	7
Northcentral Tech. Coll. (WI)	\$19.4-\$20.9	NA	9m	NA	3	27		\$21-\$25/hr	NA	4
Northern Arizona U.	\$28.5-\$33.5K	\$33.5K	12m	\$2,792	2	18	40	\$16-\$26/hr	\$17/hr	2
North Essex Comm. Coll. (MA)	\$13-\$17K	\$15K	(3)10m,(1)12m		4	15	19	\$25-\$40/hr	\$35/hr	10
Portland Community Coll. (OR)	\$22K	\$22K	12m	\$18,333	4	25-30	40	\$14-\$22/hr	\$30/hr	16
Purdue U.					0			\$15-\$30/hr	\$25/hr	5
U. Of Rochester	\$18-\$55K	\$24K	12m	\$2,000	2	20-25		\$25/hr	\$15/hr	1
St. Petersburg Jr. College (FL)	\$21-42.3K	\$30.4K	12m	\$2,533	5	25+		\$12-\$23/hr		15
Salt Lake Commnity College	\$22-\$28K	\$24K	12m	\$2,000	3	30				

**Oakland Community College
American Sign Language Program (SLS) Competitor Analysis
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Institution	Salary Range	Average Salary	Contract Months	Avg. Salary per Month	# Staff Positions	Hrs./week Interpreted	Hrs./week On Campus	Hourly Wage Range	Average Wage	# Hourly Positions
San Diego Comm. Coll. District	\$15.2-\$38.8K	\$26K	(1)12m,(3)10m		4	30	(1)40,(2)30,(1)20		\$12.50/hr	0
Scott Community College (1A)					0			\$20.50	\$24/hr	2
U. of South Florida					0			\$17-\$25/hr	\$14.40/hr	8
U. of Tennessee at Knoxville					0			\$12.50-\$16.50	\$25/hr	4
U. of Toledo					0			\$20-\$30/hr	\$20/hr	6
Tulsa Community College	\$23.1K	\$26K	12m	\$2,167	4	20		\$8.35-\$24/hr	\$20/hr	10
Waukesha Cnty Tech. College (WI)	\$28.1-\$33.6K	\$22.9K	10m	2,292	1	31		\$17-\$28/hr	\$25/hr	6
U. of Wisconsin-LaCrosse					0			\$25/hr		2
U. of Wisconsin-Madison	\$19-\$29K		9m		3	22	(2)30hr,(1)23.3	\$11.30-\$22.30		
U. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee	\$23-\$34.5K	\$26.2K	9m	\$2,911	6	20	38			0
Virginia Tech. U.	\$31.6-\$36.9K	\$33.8K	12m	\$2,817	3	25-30		\$17-\$40/hr	\$26/hr	4