American Sign Language and Deaf Studies

Why study ASL & Deaf Studies at Maryville College?
Are you interested in how language and community unite Deaf culture? The major in ASL & Deaf Studies provides you with the knowledge and experiences to explore that connection. Our program emphasizes development of fluency in ASL, exploration of the creative expression and structure of the language and deep knowledge of and interaction with Deaf culture. You can prepare for further study in Deaf education, linguistics or anthropology at the graduate level or communication skills/cultural knowledge for use in counseling, social work, teaching, working in schools for the Deaf or other service fields.

On-campus resources include: ASL and interpreting labs that provide one-on-one work with nationally certified interpreting mentors; Deaf consultants in ASL lab sessions and interpreting skills courses; and Sigma Lambda Kappa, a campus organization that provides students with opportunities to become involved in various areas of the Deaf community.

PROGRAMS OF STUDY:
- B.A. in American Sign Language and Deaf Studies
- Minor in American Sign Language and Deaf Studies

MEET A STUDENT

Samantha Burke ’19
Hometown: Louisville, Ky.

Samantha became interested in American Sign Language because her best friend in high school was Deaf. During her college search process, Samantha researched degrees for ASL/Deaf Studies and found that Maryville College was one of the few schools offering it as a field of study.

“I scheduled a campus visit and sat in on an ASL class. Even in that brief time, I could see the personal connection between the students and professor. I was able to speak with the professor afterward and saw how the fantastic support system and resources would help further my ASL skills,” she said. “With my degree from Maryville College, I plan to attend graduate school for Speech and Language Pathology with a focus on alternative communication.”

MEET A GRADUATE

Tiffany Ivens Kelley ’11
Currently: Statewide Director of Field Operations, TN Department of Human Services – Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing Services

After graduating from MC, Tiffany continued her education at the University of Tennessee and received a master’s in counseling with a concentration in vocational rehabilitation with a deafness focus. In her current role for vocational rehab, she ensures that quality and timely services are provided to individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind in securing employment.

“MC played a huge part in the path that led me where I am today. There, I was taught the skills needed to be successful in the educational field and, most importantly, in the professional field. I cherish my education from MC.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION, visit maryvillecollege.edu/ASL or call 865.981.8092