American Sign Language-English Interpreting

Why study ASL-English Interpreting at Maryville College?

Maryville College was the first college in the United States to offer a bachelor’s degree in ASL-English Interpreting (in 1974). For more than four decades, our graduates have gone on to impressive careers with interpreting services, video relay and video remote interpreting businesses, schools, universities, legal firms and state and federal agencies.

Are you ready to be one of them? Sign Language interpreting opens communication when people who are Deaf or Deaf-blind interact with the hearing world to buy a home, adopt a child, take a cruise, take classes, book a flight, order sushi or interview for a job. Opportunities for interpreters allow for skilled professional interpreters to direct their own businesses or thrive as staff interpreters, interpret solo or as members of interpreter teams and specialize in different settings, such as education, healthcare, legal and/or video relay services.

The major also prepares students for advanced study in interpreting and related fields.

Meet a Student

Tatyana Watts ’20

Hometown: Atlanta, Ga.

Interpreting is something Tatyana has done for her Deaf parents for as long as she can remember. In second grade, she learned that she could become a certified interpreter and from that moment on, her career goal was set. She decided on Maryville College immediately after her campus visit. Today, she credits the College for helping her realize her goals.

In 2019, she was selected for an internship with the University of Tennessee-Knoxville’s Undergraduate Research Experience for Deaf Students. She is currently lead mentor in American Sign Language levels 1 and 2.

“After college, I am still unsure as to where God wants to lead me,” she said. “I know for sure I want to become a community interpreter or a teacher at a Deaf school, teaching K-8.”

Meet a Graduate

Emma Schwarzmann-Taylor ’19

Currently: Staff Interpreter at Context Global Inc., in Washington, D.C.

Emma was first introduced to American Sign Language (ASL) when the dance company she performed with worked with the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind. She fell in love with the beautiful, expressive language. Conducting research on colleges that taught ASL, she found Maryville College and scheduled a campus visit.

“At Maryville, I benefited from a strong Deaf community, excellent professors and mentors, and a strong support system that aided in furthering my ASL skills,” she said. “In my current job, I provide interpreting services in schools and government agencies throughout D.C. and Northern Virginia. I know I would not be where I am today without the amazing education I received at Maryville, and I am forever grateful for the opportunities I had there.”