

# Career Fact Sheet

## BS Sign Language Interpretation

*A degree in Sign Language Interpretation prepares students for occupations working with deaf and hard-of-hearing populations. Skills learned may be applied to careers as interpreters, teachers, program coordinators and outreach, as well as employment in a wide variety of sectors.*

The study of Sign Language Interpretation develops skills critical to a large number of career fields. These qualities include:

- Proficiency in American Sign Language (ASL)
- Public speaking skills in ASL and English
- Cross-cultural communication skills and conflict resolution/mediation
- Entry-level skills as an ASL/English interpreter
- Ability to analyze various types of discourse in ASL and English including lectures, conversations, meetings, and interviews
- Critical thinking skills and professional judgment as an interpreter
- Advocacy skills for ensuring equal communication access

**Make the Most of Your Major:**

- Becoming a volunteer at a Deaf-related organization
- Attending Deaf community events
- Being active in the student-run ASL Club at UNH Manchester
- Attending NH Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (NHRID) meetings
- Experiencing a variety of interpreting settings when taking advanced ASL courses, field experience, and seminar courses
- Participating in the UNH Undergraduate Research Conference

### Sample Career Possibilities:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| • A Deaf-related organization employee      | • Law                                      |
| • Bilingual teacher/tutor for Deaf students | • Medicine                                 |
| • Community educator                        | • Mental health                            |
| • Education                                 | • Self-employed interpreter                |
| • Government                                | • Social services                          |
|   | • Staff interpreter at an agency or school |

This Career Fact Sheet and active links can be found through the UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE at MANCHESTER Career Services website.

**University of New Hampshire and General Resources:**

*Occupational Outlook Handbook on-line*

[www.bls.gov/oco](http://www.bls.gov/oco) | The US Department of Labor resource describes what workers do on-the-job, work environment, training and educational qualifications, earnings and expected job outlook for a wide variety of occupations.

*Wildcat Careers*

<http://www.unh.edu/uacc/careeradvising.html> | Wildcat Careers via the University of New Hampshire University Advising and Career Center website. Scroll down and click on the Wildcat Careers Login Box (First time users need to register).

*University of New Hampshire at Manchester: Internships*

[www.unhm.unh.edu/internships](http://www.unhm.unh.edu/internships)

*University of New Hampshire at Manchester: What Can I Do With A Major In...?*

[www.unhm.unh.edu/counseling/career/](http://www.unhm.unh.edu/counseling/career/)

*Vault.com*

<http://www.library.unh.edu/researchtools/databases/databases.asp?search=UVWXYZ>

Vault has been called “The best place on the Web to prepare for a job search.” This database includes more than 80 full-length career guides, insider company information and career advice. Scroll down and click the link to Vault Online Career Library.

**Sign Language Interpretation Resources:**

*The National Association of the Deaf (NAD)*

[www.nad.org](http://www.nad.org) | A national organization of deaf people, providing information on advocacy, legal rights, social networking, and news updates

*The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID)*

[www.rid.org](http://www.rid.org) | The national professional organization of interpreters, providing information on education, standards, and resources for interpreters and consumers of interpreting services

*The NH Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (NHRID)*

[www.nhrid.org](http://www.nhrid.org) | Information on local NHRID meetings, events, and activities

*Northeast Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (NDHHS)*

[www.ndhhs.org](http://www.ndhhs.org) | is located in Concord, NH, and is a deaf-run agency that provides “one-stop” services for deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

*Granite State Independent Living (GSIL)*

[www.gsil.org](http://www.gsil.org) | is located in Concord, NH, providing independent living services for the deaf and hard-of-hearing people. GSIL also runs an interpreter-referral service.

*Northeast Independent Living Program (NILP)*

[www.nilp.org](http://www.nilp.org) | Based out of Lawrence, MA, provides independent living services for the deaf and hard-of-hearing.

*DEAF, Inc*

[www.deafinonline.org](http://www.deafinonline.org) | is located in Allston (Boston), MA, and focuses on providing services, information, and advocacy to deaf people.

*Gallaudet University*

[www.gallaudet.edu](http://www.gallaudet.edu) | Gallaudet University is the only liberal arts college exclusively for deaf and hard-of-hearing students in the world. Provides program information, updates on research, current publications, and activities.

