

# Academic Programs

## American Sign Language

[American Sign Language \(ASL\)](#) is the vernacular of the vast majority of Deaf Americans. It is a visual and spatio-gestural language with its own intrinsic structure and grammar that convey meaning through signing. The associate of arts degree in American Sign Language is a transfer degree for students who wish to major in American Sign Language, deaf studies or deaf education, interpreter education, or social work. The ASL certificate prepares qualified students to enter fields in which they would interact with Deaf people on a regular basis.

## General Studies


The [General Studies](#) program was redesigned in 2015 based on emerging guided pathways principles to provide a flexible but focused academic program designed to foster retention and completion for a wide range of students. The program provides four interdisciplinary, academic cores with academic maps that create recommended pathways to transfer in a variety of academic areas. The program also provides flexibility for individual transfer institution requirements, focused academic and career interest exploration, and individualized program completion. Strengths of the program include a strong, interdisciplinary leadership team; Advising Day and Week coordination; collaborations with individual disciplines, other academic programs, and counseling; a strong variety of student supports (student workshops, advising weeks, program advisors, intrusive advising); training for Program Advisors; resources and materials for students (e.g., exploratory students or students with a specific academic focus), and online and Z-Degree Options (first adopters). Challenges include the availability of resources to provide consistent, predictable access to programmatic high impact practices and integrative learning opportunities for all General Studies students.

## International Studies

The [international studies degree](#) concentration is designed for students who envision a career in the international arena and plan to transfer into the upper division of another college or university with the intention of continuing their studies in such areas as international relations or area studies, and subsequently working in this field, be it in government, international organizations, trade, finances, business, or related areas. Administered by the History and Political Science areas, this is a highly multidisciplinary degree, encompassing more than 10 disciplines. Students in this degree participate in the Model U.N. program and the Model African League program.

## Women's & Gender Studies

The [Women's and Gender Studies Program](#) (WGSP) offers courses about women and gender for all students. The program is designed to explore the experiences and cultural contributions of women and those in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) community as well as examine the societal implications of gender. Informed by feminist, gender, and sexuality theory, the courses in the WGSP challenge false assumptions and theories about women, gender, sexuality, race, and class; encourage rigorous critical thinking; raise issues of gender bias and the subjective nature of knowledge; support students' development as individuals and as participating members of their larger communities, and expand options for all beyond traditional gender roles. These writing-intensive courses help students consider the differences gender and sexuality make in family relationships, friendships, education, and work. These classes are comfortable settings for delving into scholarship and theory. A certificate in women's and gender studies can be earned by students who complete 12 or more credits in courses approved by the WGSP. The WGSP also features speakers, seminars, and other programs, including active

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women's and gender studies student clubs. Student awards and scholarships are presented annually. The WGSP also features speakers, seminars, and other programs, including active women's and gender studies student clubs. Student awards and scholarships are presented annually.