THE **FIRST 15**

THE **NEXT 30**

THE **LAST MILE**

PATHWAY TO PROMISE

Sign Language Coaching Guide

VALENCIACOLLEGE

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Student Success Coach Responsibilities

- My goal is to make sure you understand all you need to know about your degree requirements at Valencia College.

- I will provide a safe space for you to discuss your concerns and I will listen, be present, respectful, and genuine.

- Our resources are endless! I will always point you in the right direction if you connect with me.

- I will help you with your questions about colleges and universities you are thinking about transferring to and what it takes to get there.

- Helping you find a major and a career that is right for you is my goal. I will provide you with information and support you along the way.

- This is your journey, but you are not alone! I will help you select your courses, understand your prerequisites, create your plans and set goals.

Student Responsibilities

- I will connect with my Student Success Coach every semester.

- When I schedule an appointment, I will start thinking about what I want to talk about.

- I will bring my "note-taking tools" with me to my appointments (e.g., phones, tablets, or good old paper and pen).

- We will be going over important information, so I will keep all of it handy and refer to it often.

- If my Student Success Coach refers me to any resources, I will be sure to follow through and I will stay in touch.

- I will take responsibility, know the deadlines, ask questions, stay on track and be the one to know what to do.

Careers in Sign Language

Degrees in sign language can lead to a variety of careers. Below are some examples of careers you can pursue depending on the level of degree you obtain.

Bachelor's Degree

Special Education Teacher
Interpreter/Translator
Social Worker

Master's Degree

Speech-Language Pathologist
ASL Instructor

Doctorate Degree

Audiologist
Psychologist

Additional Resources

O*Net OnLine is resource that provides detailed career information for job seekers. It includes data on local and national salaries and growth.

The Occupational Outlook Handbook is the government's premier career resource featuring hundreds of occupations. National data on career salaries and growth is also available.

NCES College Navigator is a free tool designed to help students find their program of interest at various colleges and universities. This resource provides information on transfer institutions.

Valencia's Sign Language website provides information about classes to take for a sign language major, as well as links to professional organizations in sign language.

MyCareerShines is a comprehensive career and educational planning system that is tailored to meet Florida requirements.

Essential Functions of a Sign Language Interpreter

In order to work as a sign language interpreter, an individual must have the requisite skills, experience, education, and other job-related requirements of the position. This individual must also have the ability to perform the essential job functions of the position.

Essential Physical Abilities

Vision: A sign language interpreter must have the ability to see details of another person's handshapes, hand movements, and facial expressions at a range from three to six feet.

Facial: A sign language interpreter must have control over the muscles of the face in order to manipulate the eyebrows, cheeks, mouth, and nose.

Manual Dexterity: A sign language interpreter must have the ability to quickly make coordinated movements of one hand, a hand together with its arm, two hands, or two hand together with arms. Finger Dexterity: A sign language interpreter must have the ability to make precisely coordinated movements of the fingers of one or both hands.

Wrist-Finger Speed: A sign language interpreter must have the ability to make fast, simple, repeated movements of the fingers, hands, and wrists.

Limb Movement: A sign language interpreter must have the ability to move the arms in order to place the hands slightly above the head as well as extend the arms out toward the front of the body and out to the sides of the body.

Limb Movement Speed: A sign language interpreter must have the ability to quickly move the arms.

Dual-Limb Coordination: A sign language interpreter must have the ability to coordinate movements of both arms while sitting or standing.

Head: A sign language interpreter must have the ability to control the head in order to nod and to turn it from side to side.

Physical Stamina: A sign language interpreter must have the ability to endure a medium amount of physical exertion without getting winded or out of breath for at least 30 minutes at a time.

Essential Functions of a Sign Language Interpreter

Essential Cognitive Abilities

Critical Thinking: A sign language interpreter must have the ability to use logic and analysis to assess communicative events in order to make adjustments in approaches to interpretation.

Self-Monitoring: A sign language interpreter must have the ability to monitor and assess the interpretation both during and after a task.

Selective Attention: A sign language interpreter must have the ability to concentrate and not be distracted while performing a task and sustain that attention over a period of time.

Visual Attention: A sign language interpreter must have the ability to focus on a single source of visual information in the presence of other distracting movements in the surrounding area.

Mental Stamina: A sign language interpreter must have the ability to sustain a significant amount of mental processing without fatigue or breakdown for at least 30 minutes at a time.

Working Memory: A sign language interpreter must have the ability to remember information such as concepts, words, and numbers for a brief time while performing the task of interpreting.

Information Ordering: A sign language interpreter must have the ability to track and arrange information in a certain order.

Pattern Inference: A sign language interpreter must have the ability to quickly make sense of information even when parts of that information may appear to be missing.

Time Sharing: A sign language interpreter must have the ability to efficiently shift back and forth between two or more activities or tasks and between two or more sources of information.

Problem Sensitivity: A sign language interpreter must have the ability to recognize when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong.

Fluency of Ideas: A sign language interpreter must have the ability to come up with a number of ideas about a given topic. This concerns the number of ideas produced and not the quality, correctness, or creativity of the ideas.

Breadth of Knowledge: A sign language interpreter must have at least introductory-level knowledge in a broad variety of topics and fields of interests.

Your Checklist

0–12 Credit Hour Checklist

∞ This symbol represents actions that you should take at every credit hour benchmark.

☐ Check your **Student Portal** email daily. ∞

☐ Check if your meta-major matches your career of interest and change it if necessary. ∞

☐ Familiarize yourself with various educational and career options in sign language.

☐ Consider registering for ASL 2140: American Sign Language I.

☐ Learn about the resources available to you, such as the Learning Support Center, Tutoring, Counseling, Career Advising and Student Portal. For more information and locations, go to the **Student Services page** on the Valencia College website.

☐ Explore and research your career interests by visiting the **Career Center website** or connecting with a career advisor.

☐ Research colleges and universities of interest and the admission requirements.

☐ Run your **degree audit** and use your **catalog** to help you choose the right classes each term. For assistance, connect with an **Student Success Coach.** ∞

☐ Register for **SLS 1122 New Student Experience course** within your first two terms at Valencia College.

☐ Consider registering for your first Math course.

☐ Check Important Dates & Deadlines by visiting the **Academic Calendar** on the Valencia College website. ∞

☐ Apply for scholarships by visiting the **Financial Aid Services** website. ∞

☐ **Get involved** on campus by joining student clubs and organizations, attending **campus events** and participating in health and wellness activities. ∞

☐ Visit the **Career Center website** to learn how to create your resume and connect with a career advisor for feedback.

12-30 Credit Hour Checklist

∞ This symbol represents actions that you should take at every credit hour benchmark.

☐ Check your **Student Portal** email daily. ∞

☐ Confirm that your meta-major matches your career of interest and change it if necessary. ∞

☐ Consider taking your second Math course.

☐ Consider registering for ASL 2150: *American Sign Language II*. If considering transferring to the University of North Florida or most 4-year Interpreter Education Programs, additionally consider registering for INT 2131: *Introduction to Interpreting* if transferring, and INT 2200:*Cognitive Processing and Translation*.

☐ Explore your major and career interests by considering volunteering, employment, **internships**, job shadowing and service learning.

☐ Decide on a major and your transfer university of interest. If you are still undecided, meet with an **Student Success Coach**.

☐ Run your **degree audit** and use your **catalog** to help you choose the right classes. For assistance, **connect with your Student Success Coach**. ∞

☐ Check Important Dates & Deadlines by visiting the **Academic Calendar** on the Valencia College website. ∞

☐ Apply for scholarships by visiting the **Financial Aid Services** website. ∞

☐ Consider getting involved with Sign Language Department events to practice your skills and connect with the Deaf community.

☐ **Get involved** on campus by joining student clubs and organizations, attending **campus events** and participating in health and wellness activities. ∞

☐ Keep your resume current by reviewing it every semester and consider scheduling a mock interview. For assistance, visit the **Career Center website** or connect with a career advisor.

30-45 Credit Hour Checklist

∞ This symbol represents actions that you should take at every credit hour benchmark.

☐ Check your **Student Portal** email daily. ∞

☐ Confirm that your meta-major matches your career of interest and change it if necessary. ∞

☐ Consider registering for ASL 2160: *American Sign Language III* . If considering transferring to the University of North Florida or most 4-year Interpreter Education Programs, additionally considering registering for INT 2201: *Consecutive Interpreting: English to ASL* and ASL 2510 *Deaf Culture*.

☐ Decide on your educational goals by the time you complete 45 credit hours.

☐ Research colleges and universities of interest, including the admission requirements, application deadlines, housing options, campus tours and connect with the academic departments.

☐ Consider exploring graduate school (e.g., master's degree, medical or law school), advanced training, certifications and licenses.

☐ Run your **degree audit** to confirm you are on track for graduation. For assistance, **connect with your Student Success Coach.** ∞

☐ Check Important Dates & Deadlines by visiting the **Academic Calendar** on the Valencia College website. ∞

☐ Apply for scholarships by visiting the **Financial Aid Services** website. ∞

☐ Continue involvement with Sign Language Department events.

☐ **Get involved** on campus by joining student clubs and organizations, attending **campus events** and participating in health and wellness activities. ∞

☐ Conduct an informational interview with a Sign Language Professional.

☐ Enhance your work experience and skills by volunteering, employment, **internships**, service learning and job shadowing.

☐ Keep your resume current by reviewing it every semester and consider scheduling a mock interview. For assistance, visit the **Career Center website** or connect with a career advisor.

45-60 Credit Hour Checklist

∞ This symbol represents actions that you should take at every credit hour benchmark.

☐ Check your **Student Portal** email daily. ∞

☐ Confirm that your meta-major matches your career of interest and change it if necessary. ∞

☐ Consider registering for ASL 2200: *American Sign Language IV*, and ASL 2300: *Structure of American Sign Language*. If considering transferring to the University of North Florida or most 4-year Interpreter Education Programs, additionally consider registering for INT 2202: *Consecutive Interpreting: ASL English*.

☐ Run your **degree audit** to confirm you are on track for graduation. For assistance, **connect with your Student Success Coach**. ∞

☐ If you are ready, submit your **graduation application** by the deadline.

☐ Explore housing options, develop a financial plan, schedule campus tours and connect with the academic departments.

☐ Submit your admissions applications early to your colleges/universities of interest (and any other materials, such as transcripts and recommendation letters, if required).

☐ Check Important Dates & Deadlines by visiting the **Academic Calendar** on the Valencia College website. ∞

☐ Apply for scholarships by visiting the **Financial Aid Services** website. ∞

☐ Continue involvement with Sign Language Department events.

☐ **Get involved** on campus by joining student clubs and organizations, attending **campus events** and participating in health and wellness activities. ∞

☐ Enhance your work experience and skills by volunteering, part-time employment, **internships**, service learning and job shadowing.

☐ Keep your resume current by reviewing it every semester and consider scheduling a mock interview. For assistance, visit the **Career Center website** or connect with a career advisor.

Popular Transfer Schools

The most popular transfer schools that have sign language programs include the following:

University of South Florida

University of North Florida

William Woods

Gallaudet University

Refer to the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf website for additional Sign Language Interpreting Training Programs.
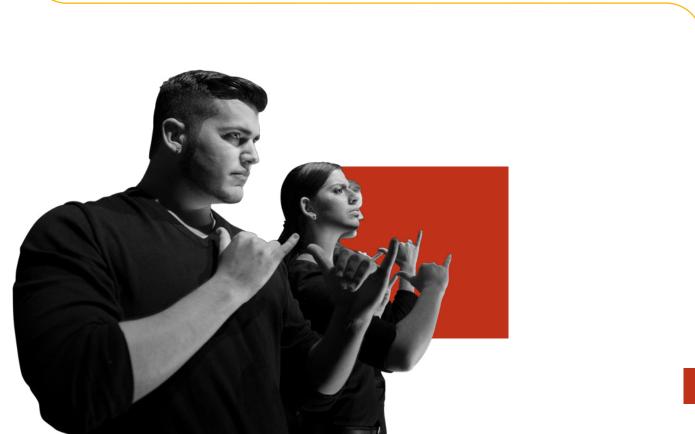
Common Requirements

Even though a grade of C is considered passing, most schools require a B grade in courses with the prefix ASL to be accepted.

Academic Planning
Are you interested in attending the University of South Florida (USF)?

The **Degree Pathway** for the sign language interpretation program outlines the courses needed to complete your Associate's degree in preparation for the bachelor's degree at the University of South Florida (USF). This includes sample term-by-term plans and helpful academic planning information for this pathway. Although Valencia's interpreting coursework is not a pre-requisite into USF's ASL Interpreting BA degree; it is strongly recommended to take INT 2131, INT 2200, INT 2201, and INT 2202, in partial fulfillment of your AA elective requirements.

Valencia College Resources

Need more information? Check these out!

VALENCIA COLLEGE
Internship and Workforce Services

**Find an internship and
be ready for the job**

ENGAGE

**Engage in about over
150 clubs and organizations**

VALENCIA VOLUNTEERS

**Learn more about over 150 clubs
and organizations**

VALENCIA COLLEGE
Learning Support

Get help with your studies

Let's Talk

**Build academic
and emotional fitness**

VALENCIA COLLEGE
Veterans Affairs

**Essential resources and
support for veterans**

UFIT @VALENCIA

**Free fitness and
recreational sports**

BayCare

Get help with behavioral health
and more by calling **800-878-5470**
Student Support Resources

VALENCIA COLLEGE
Career Center

**Explore careers and prepare
for what's next**

Questions to Ask Your Student Success Coach

- What's the difference between dropping a class and withdrawing from a class, and how does this impact me?

- What are some things I should consider before withdrawing from a class?

- What are some important academic policies that I should be aware of?(e.g., grade forgiveness, academic probation)

- What are some resources that I should be using at Valencia College if I'm struggling in my classes?

- What are some resources that will help me explore different majors and careers?

- How can I raise my GPA?

- What are some things I should consider when creating my class schedule?

- What are the prerequisites for my major?

- What are the admission requirements for my program at my transfer college/university of interest?

- How do I choose my electives?

- Is my major limited or restricted access? If so, what does that mean?

- How do I know that I'm on track for graduation?

- How do I know that I've met all my graduation requirements for my major?

- How do I apply for graduation?

- How do I apply to my college/university of interest?

- How do I request/submit my college transcripts?

How Do I Run My Degree Audit?

The degree audit is a great tool to help you plan out your courses. It is a summary or audit of your degree. It will show you the classes that you have completed and the ones you have yet to complete. Here are the steps on running a degree audit. We encourage you to consult with your Student Success Coach.

1. Log in to **Student Portal**.
2. Click on Students on the left-hand side.
3. Look for the Path to Graduation box and click on My Academic Progress (Degree Audit).
4. Click on Generate New Degree Audit.
5. Select the term you are currently in, click submit.
6. Click on the button next to the name of your degree.
7. Click on Generate Request.

The path to promise takes you from "what is" to "what can be."

WHAT'S NEXT?