

LS208
Professional Practices for Interpreters

4 Credits

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LS208 Version: 5



Professional Practices for Interpreters

Calendar Description

This course examines a variety of current professional practices and expectations in the field of signed language interpreting, including an examination of the Canadian Association of Sign Language Interpreters (CASLI) Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Professional Conduct, the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Code of Professional Conduct, and the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) Guidelines of Professional Conduct for Educational Interpreters.

Rationale

This is a required course for the Sign Language Interpretation diploma program. The purpose of this course is to establish a solid professional and ethical foundation upon which students can build as they enter the field of signed language interpreting. Approaches to ethical decision making, professional codes of conduct, the establishment of professional boundaries, and issues related to power and oppression are some of the key concepts explored in this course that are vital to professional practice.

Prerequisites

[LS205](#)

Co-Requisites

[LS210](#), [LS216](#), and [LS218](#)

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

1. define morality, ethics, and professionalism.
2. describe several different approaches to ethical decision making.
3. identify characteristics of competent practice.
4. examine the difference between personal and professional boundaries.
5. explore the impact an interpreter can have on communication events.
6. demonstrate moral and ethical reasoning as it applies to a variety of case studies.

7. examine the tenets of a variety of codes of ethics and professional guidelines.
8. apply the tenets of the CASLI Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Professional Conduct and/or the EIPA Guidelines to case studies.

Resource Materials

Required Text(s):

Humphrey, J. H., & Alcorn, B. J. (2007). *So you want to be an interpreter?* (4th ed.). Renton, Washington: H & H Publishing Company. **ISBN:** 0-9767132-6-8.

Humphrey, J. H. (2013). *Decisions? Decisions!* (3rd ed.). Everett, Washington: H & H Publishing Company, Inc. **ISBN:** 978-0-9860609-9-1.

Conduct of Course

This is a 4-credit course which translates into 4 hours per week (or a total of 60 hours) in the classroom. To support the development of bilingual skills, this course is conducted in spoken English and American Sign Language. Lectures, videos, independent work and class discussion are used to deliver the course content. It is expected that students devote as much time as necessary outside of the classroom preparing for in-class discussions and activities.

Students are expected to be active, respectful contributors to classroom dialogue, be considerate in all interactions with others (in and out of the classroom), and take responsibility for their learning and development. Course related questions are addressed during class, by email, or by appointment when necessary.

In preparation for working as a signed language interpreter, it is imperative that students demonstrate a strong command of course content. Tutors are available at no charge to students with documented learning disabilities. All students who wish to improve their working command of course content may participate, at no charge, in peer assisted study sessions - PASS. Other tutoring services are available at the student's expense. Finally, there are a number of student success resources including one-on-one coaching and support available on-line at no charge. For more information on participating in the above mentioned programs or resources, please contact Lakeland's Accessibility Advisor.

Professional Conduct

Professional identity is cultivated by adhering to the following tenets central to competent interpreting practice: respect, personal accountability, culturally-appropriate dialogue and behaviour, and confidentiality. These tenets are expanded upon and serve as the foundation of this course; as such, the expectation for professional conduct is considerably heightened. Being mindful of, and demonstrating these tenets in all classroom interactions, contributes to a safe learning environment and facilitates transference of these behaviours into professional practice.

In addition, it is expected that all students adhere to the guidelines set forth in the Student Handbook, and the Lakeland College Student Policies & Procedures.

Evaluation Procedures

Student progress in this course is evaluated via 3 quizzes and two progress checks.

In addition, students receive a mark for professional conduct and demeanour in all class-related activities. In the event personal issues or conflicts arise, it is expected that each student takes responsibility for seeking the external support necessary to resolve them.

The weighting for each evaluation measure is listed below.

Professional Conduct	20%
Quizzes (5% each)	15%
Project	20%
Progress Check #1	20%
Progress Check #2	25%

Grade Equivalents and Course Pass Requirements

A minimum grade of B (3.00) (75-79%) is required to pass this course. A cumulative GPA of B (3.00) is required to qualify to graduate. Students are responsible for monitoring their academic progress and requesting assistance as necessary.

Letter	F	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
Percent Range	0-49	50-52	53-56	57-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90-94	95-100
Points	0.00	1.00	1.30	1.70	2.00	2.30	2.70	3.00	3.30	3.70	4.00	4.00

Attendance

Attendance is considered vital to the learning process and as significant to the students' evaluation as are examinations and assignments, therefore, absenteeism is recorded. Absence for any reason does not relieve a student of the responsibility of timely completion of course work and assignments.

In keeping with professional standards in the field of signed language interpreting, should a situation arise that prevents a student from attending class, submitting an assignment on time, presenting, or writing a progress check, the student is required to notify the course instructor as far in advance as possible. Should the situation involve an emergency, a medical note or other

supporting documentation must be submitted to the instructor or the program facilitator within 24 hours of the absence.

Absence from progress checks without a medical certificate/documentation will result in a grade of zero.

In the event of an absence, it is recommended that students follow up with a peer first, then consult the course instructor for additional clarification or questions regarding material covered.

Professional practice requires that students arrive and be prepared for class at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start of class.

Students arriving after class commences are considered absent. More than two (2) absences may result in probation. Further absences may result in suspension from the program

Instructors have the authority to require attendance in classes.

Course Units/Topics

Key Terms

Metaethical Principles

Models for Making Ethical Decisions

The Ethics of Professional Competence

The Work Ethic of Signed Language Professionals

The Ethics of Professional Relationships

Demonstrating Moral and Ethical Reasoning



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