

Rochester INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Minor Program proposal form

CoLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS   
– in PARTERNERSHIP WITH NTID

**Co-administered by   
*Dept of History* and *Dept. of Modern Languages and Cultures (COLA)***

***Dept of Amer Sign Lang & Interp Ed and Dept of Cult & Creative St (NTID)***

**Name of Minor:** ***American Sign Language and Deaf Cultural Studies***

**Brief description of the minor to be used in university publications**

|  |
| --- |
| The ASL and DCS minor prepares students in the multi-disciplinary study of American Sign Language and Deaf Culture. The minor is open to Hearing and Deaf students enrolled in bachelors degree programs. Completion of Beginning American Sign Language I (MLAS-201) or equivalent skills are required for entry to the program. Courses in the minor address topics in the field of ASL and DCS including the study of ASL and its structure, ASL literature, literature in English pertaining to the D/deaf experience, the history of D/deaf people in America and around the world, Deaf art and cinema, the experience of D/deaf people from racial, ethnic and other minority groups, oppression in the lives D/deaf people, and various political, legal and educational issues affecting members of the D/deaf community. The minor may complement majors in fields such as business, imaging arts and sciences, health sciences, policy studies, professional and technical communication, psychology, and numerous scientific and technical fields. |

**1.0 Minor Program Approvals**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Approval request date: | Approval granted date: |
| Academic Unit Curriculum Committee | 1/19/12 | 3/30/12 |
| College Curriculum Committee | 3/30/12 | 3/30/12 |
|  |  |  |

**2.0 Rationale:**

A minor at RIT is a related set of academic courses consisting of no fewer than 15 semester credit hours leading to a formal designation on a student's baccalaureate transcript

How is this set of academic courses related?

|  |
| --- |
| American Sign Language and Deaf Cultural Studies allows students to examine D/deaf experiences from multiple perspectives and contributes to an understanding of human diversity. The systemic study of ASL and DCS presents opportunities for students to explore fundamental topics in the Liberal Arts, including identity, intercultural communication, minority populations, diversity, and global skills. Topics are addressed from a cross-disciplinary perspective involving fields such as history, art, literature, linguistics, sociology, and psychology.  This minor addresses students’ strong demand for a course of study in American Sign Language and Deaf Cultural Studies. RIT’s strategic vision seeks and encourages collaborations across the disciplines. The field of ASL and DCS is inherently interdisciplinary and involves training in related fields. Importantly, the learning outcomes of the course offerings are directly applicable to professional and academic activities and problem solving in a wide range of scientific and technical fields. |

**3.0 Multidisciplinary involvement:**

If this is a multidisciplinary minor spanning two or more academic units, list the units and their role in offering and managing this minor.

|  |
| --- |
| The following COLA departments offer courses in the minor:   * Modern Languages and Cultures * History * Sociology and Anthropology * English * Fine Arts   Oversight for the minor will be provided by a steering committee consisting of the following members. Current members of the committee are:   * Hiroko Yamashita, Chair, Dept. of Modern Languages and Cultures, COLA * Rebecca Edwards, Chair, Dept. of History, COLA * Kim Kurz, Chair, Dept. of American Sign Language & Interpreting Education, NTID * Joe Bochner, Chair, Dept. of Cultural & Creative Studies, NTID * J. Matt Searls, Dept. of Cultural & Creative Studies, NTID * Cynthia Sanders, Dept. of American Sign Language & Interpreting Education, NTID   Two members of the steering committee serve as co-advisors for the minor.  The minor is certified by the College of Liberal Arts. |

**4.0 Students ineligible to pursue this minor:**

The purpose of the minor is both to broaden a student's college education and deepen it in an area outside the student’s major program. A minor may be related to and complement a student’s major, or it may be in a completely different academic/professional area.   It is the responsibility of the academic unit proposing a minor and the unit’s curriculum committee to indicate any home programs for which the minor is not a broadening experience.

Please list below any home programs whose students will not be allowed to pursue this minor, provide the reasoning, and indicate if this exclusion has been discussed with the affected programs:

|  |
| --- |
| Matriculated students majoring in all undergraduate baccalaureate programs at RIT are eligible to complete this minor. Because the minor is strongly interdisciplinary, **no RIT student is ineligible**. However, students enrolled in the ASL-English Interpreting major are not eligible to pursue the minor with an emphasis on ASL because of their major’s focus on this field of study. These students must pursue the minor with an emphasis on Deaf Cultural Studies, as described below in Section 5.0 below under Option 2. As such, the minor will prove a fitting complement to the student’s major, by providing a deep exposure to the study of Deaf culture and the Deaf experience from multi-disciplinary perspectives in the liberal arts, such as history, art, and literature. Such Deaf Cultural Studies courses do not repeat the content of professional courses offered through the Interpreting major.  Students in the ASL-English Interpreting major will need to confer with their program advisor concerning the program-specific restrictions on ASL and Deaf Cultural Studies courses applied towards the minor. The director of the ASL-English Interpreting program has been consulted on these restrictions and supports them. All other RIT students can complete the minor requirements provided that they achieve a minimal level of competence in American Sign Language (completion of MLAS-202 or equivalent skills). |

**5.0 Minor Program Structure, Sequence and Course Offering Schedule:**

Describe the structure of the proposed minor and list all courses, their anticipated offering schedule, and any prerequisites.

* All minors must contain at least fifteen semester credit hours;
* Minors may be discipline-based or interdisciplinary;
* In most cases, minors shall consist of a minimum of two upper division courses (300 or above) to provide reasonable breadth and depth within the minor;
* As per New York State requirements, courses within the minor must be offered with sufficient frequency to allow students to complete the minor within the same time frame allowed for the completion of the baccalaureate degree;
* Provide a program mask showing how students will complete the minor.

Narrative of Minor Program Structure:

|  |
| --- |
| This minor requires students to achieve a minimal level of competence in American Sign Language (MLAS-202 or equivalent skills) and complete at least one course in Deaf Cultural Studies. The minor is very flexible, and allows students to satisfy requirements in a variety of ways. Specifically, students may pursue the minor with an emphasis in ASL by completing four language courses and one Deaf Cultural Studies course, or they may pursue the minor with an emphasis in Deaf Cultural Studies by completing one language course and four Deaf Cultural Studies courses. Alternatively, students may pursue the minor by completing any combination of courses satisfying the requirements stated below:  To complete the minor, a student takes fifteen semester credit hours (sch) distributed over five courses as follows:   1. **Language course(s): one or two courses in American Sign Language is required, depending on the student’s proficiency in ASL**   Option 1: Students who are not proficient in ASL must complete the following two courses (or demonstrate equivalent skills) (8 sch)  MLAS-201 Beginning American Sign Language I  MLAS-202 Beginning American Sign Language II  Option2: Students who are proficient in ASL must complete one of the following courses (3 sch)  MLAS-450 Linguistics of American Sign Language  MLAS-451 American Sign Language Literature   1. **Elective courses: three or four courses from the following list are required (9 or 12 sch), depending on the student’s proficiency in ASL** **At least one course must be a Deaf Cultural Studies elective.**  * **Students who want to focus their studies on ASL should choose two language courses** * **Students who want to emphasize Deaf Cultural Studies should choose three or four DCS courses depending on their proficiency in ASL** * **Students who prefer a balance of ASL and DCS courses may freely distribute their electives across ASL and DCS in a manner consistent with their ASL proficiency and course prerequisites.**   Language courses  MLAS-450 Linguistics Of American Sign Language  MLAS-451 American Sign Language Literature  Deaf Cultural Studies courses  HIST-230 American Deaf History  HIST-231 Deaf People in Global Perspective  HIST-233 Diversity in the Deaf Community  HIST-234 Oppression in the Lives of Deaf People  SOCI-240 Deaf Culture in America  HIST-330 Deaf People and Technology  HIST-335 Women and the Deaf Community  ENGL- 417 Deaf Literature  FNRT- 440 Deaf Art & Cinema  The foundations courses are not prerequisites for elective courses unless indicated in the course description for a particular course. In addition, there are two requirements: (1) at least two of the five courses must be at the 300-level or higher, and (2) nine sch must be taken outside the student’s major. Students will complete this minor also in compliance with any other institutional parameters for minors. Details about courses’ prerequisites and offerings are in the table below. As the table shows, courses will be offered under their respective department’s course number, following the interdisciplinary model of the Women’s and Gender Studies Program (<http://www.rit.edu/cla/womensstudies/curriculum.html>). Students can complete the minor by adding two courses to a completed **immersion** in American Sign Language or Deaf Cultural Studies. |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Program Mask:** |  |  |  |
| **Students must complete both of the following courses (or demonstrate equivalent skills) if they are not proficient in ASL:**  MLAS-201  Beginning American Sign Language I  MLAS-202  Beginning American Sign Language II  **Students must complete one of the following courses if they are proficient in ASL:**  MLAS-450  Linguistics of American Sign Language  MLAS-451  American Sign Language Literature |  | 3-8  (4)  (4)  (3)  (3) | MLAS-201  MLAS-202  MLAS-450  MLAS-451 |
| **B. Elective courses:**  **Choose 3-4 courses from the language and Deaf Cultural Studies courses listed below depending upon proficiency in ASL.**  **At least one course must be DCS**   * Students who want to focus their studies on ASL should choose 2 language courses * Students who want to focus on Deaf Cultural Studies should choose 3-4 DCS courses depending on their proficiency in ASL * Students who prefer a balance of ASL and DCS courses may freely distribute their electives across ASL and DCS in a manner consistent with their ASL proficiency and course prerequisites. |  | 9/12 |  |
| **Total credit hours** |  | **15 -17** |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Course Number & Title | SCH | Required | Optional | Fall | Spring | Annual/  Biannual | Prerequisites |
| MLAS-201 Beginning American Sign Language I | 4 |  | X | X | X | A |  |
| MLAS-202 Beginning American Sign Language II | 4 |  | X | X | X | A | MLAS-201 |
| MLAS-450 Linguistics of American Sign Language | 3 |  | X |  | X | A | MLAS-202 |
| MLAS-451 American Sign Language Literature | 3 |  | X | X |  | A | MLAS-202 |
| HIST-230 American Deaf History | 3 |  | X | X |  | A |  |
| HIST-231 Deaf People in Global Perspective | 3 |  | X |  | X | A |  |
| HIST-233 Diversity in the Deaf Community | 3 |  | X | X |  | A |  |
| HIST-234 Oppression in the Lives of Deaf People | 3 |  | X |  | X | A |  |
| SOCI-240 Deaf Culture in America | 3 |  | X | X | X | A |  |
| HIST-330 Deaf People and Technology | 3 |  | X |  | X | B |  |
| HIST-335 Women and the Deaf Community | 3 |  | X | X |  | B |  |
| ENGL-417 Deaf Literature | 3 |  | X |  | X | A |  |
| FNRT-440 Deaf Art and Cinema | 3 |  | X | X | X | A |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Total credit hours: |  |

Notes:

**Minor Course Conversion Table: Quarter Calendar and Semester Calendar Comparison**

|  |
| --- |
| **Directions: The tables on this page will be used by the registrar’s office to aid student’s transitioning from the quarter calendar to the semester calendar.**  **If this minor existed in the quarter calendar and is being converted to the semester calendar please complete the following tables.**  **If this is a new minor that did not exist under the quarter calendar do not complete the following tables.**  Use the following tables to show minor course comparison in quarter and semester calendar formats. Use courses in the (2011-12) minor mask for this table. Display all required and elective minor courses. If necessary clarify how course sequences in the quarter calendar convert to semesters by either bracketing or using some other notation. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Minor in Semester Calendar: | American Sign Language and Deaf Cultural Studies |
| Name of Minor in Quarter Calendar: | Deaf Cultural Studies |
| Name of Certifying Academic Unit: | College of Liberal Arts |

| **QUARTER: Current Minor Courses** | | | **SEMESTER: Converted Minor Courses** | | |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Course # | Course Title | QCH | Course # | Course Title | SCH | **Comments** |
| 0525390 and 0525391 | Beginning American Sign Language I and half of Beginning American Sign Language II | 4 | MLAS 201 | Beginning American Sign Language I | 4 |  |
| 0525391 and 0525392 | Half of Beginning American Sign  Language II  And Beginning American Sign Language III | 4 | MLAS 202 | Beginning American Sign Language II | 4 |  |
| 0525595 | Linguistics of ASL | 4 | MLAS 450 | Linguistics of ASL | 3 |  |
| 0525596 | ASL Literature | 4 | MLAS  451 | ASL Literature | 3 |  |
| 0507463 | American Deaf History | 4 | HIST  230 | American Deaf History | 3 |  |
| 0507473 | European Deaf History | 4 | HIST  231 | Deaf People in Global Perspective | 3 |  |
| 0507476 | Diversity in the Deaf Community | 4 | HIST  233 | Diversity in the Deaf Community | 3 |  |
| 0507477 | Oppression in the Lives of Deaf People | 4 | HIST  234 | Oppression in the Lives of Deaf People | 3 |  |
|  |  |  | HIST  330 | Deaf People and Technology | 3 | New course |
|  |  |  | HIST  335 | Women and the Deaf Community | 3 | New course |
| 0515529 | Deaf Culture in America | 4 | SOCI  240 | Deaf Culture in America | 3 |  |
| 0504545 | Deaf Literature | 4 | ENGL  417 | Deaf Literature | 3 |  |
| 0505479 | Deaf Art and Cinema | 4 | FNRT  440 | Deaf Art and Cinema | 3 |  |

Policy Name: **D1.1 MINORS POLICY**

 1. Definition

A minor at RIT is a related set of academic courses consisting of no fewer than 15 semester credit hours leading to a formal designation on a student's baccalaureate transcript.

The purpose of the minor is both to broaden a student's college education and deepen it in an area outside the student’s major program. A minor may be related to and complement a student’s major, or it may be in a completely different academic/professional area.   It is the responsibility of the academic unit proposing a minor and the unit’s curriculum committee to indicate any home programs for which the minor is not a broadening experience.

In most cases, minors shall consist of a minimum of two upper division courses to provide reasonable breadth and depth within the minor.

2. Institutional parameters

1. Minors may be discipline-based or interdisciplinary;
2. Only matriculated students may enroll in a minor;
3. At least nine semester credit hours of the minor must consist of courses not required by the student's home program;
4. Students may pursue multiple minors.  A minimum of nine semester credit hours must be designated towards each minor; these courses may not be counted towards other minors;
5. The residency requirement for a minor is a minimum of nine semester credit hours consisting of RIT courses (excluding "X" graded courses);
6. Posting of the minor on the student's academic transcript requires a minimum GPA of 2.0 in each of the minor courses;
7. Minors may not be added to the student's academic record after the granting of the bachelor's degree.

3. Development/approval/administration processes

* 1. Minors may be developed by faculty at the departmental, inter-departmental, college, or inter-college level. As part of the minor development process:
     1. students ineligible for the proposed minor will be identified;
     2. prerequisites, if any, will be identified;
  2. Minor proposals must be approved by the appropriate academic unit(s) curriculum committee, and college curriculum committee(s), before being sent to the Inter-College Curriculum Committee (ICC) for final consideration and approval.
  3. The academic unit offering the minor (in the case of interdisciplinary minors, the designated college/department) is responsible for the following:
     1. enrolling students in the minor (as space permits);
     2. monitoring students progress toward completion of the minor;
     3. authorizing the recording of the minor's completion on student's academic records;
     4. granting of transfer credit, credit by exam, credit by experience, course substitutions, and advanced placement;
     5. responding to student requests for removal from the minor.
  4. As per New York State requirements, courses within the minor must be offered with sufficient frequency to allow students to complete the minor within the same time frame allowed for the completion of the baccalaureate degree.

4. Procedures for Minor revision

It is the duty of the college curriculum committee(s) involved with a minor to maintain the program’s structure and coherence.  Once a minor is approved by the ICC, changes to the minor that do not have a significant effect on its focus may be completed with the approval of the involved academic unit(s) and the college curriculum committee(s).  Significant changes in the focus of the minor must be approved by the appropriate academic unit(s) curriculum committee(s), the college curriculum committee(s) and be resubmitted to the ICC for final consideration and approval.