

## Program Highlights

- Founded in 1986 and located in a university environment in Washington, DC
- Direct, deaf-friendly instruction without interpreters
- Students without prior ASL skills acquire it in ELI as a means to gaining and then enhancing their knowledge of English
- Tuition covers all instructional costs, regardless of existing student skill level
- ELI welcomes a highly diverse group of students from as many as 60 different countries
- Program fosters academic and cultural sharing while promoting pride in each student's heritage
- Research-based bilingual teaching methodology and pedagogy are used
- Various field trips to places of interest within the local area are planned and included in the tuition cost
- ELI's in-house tutorial service provides one-on-one tutoring and group tutoring for our students at no additional cost
- Classes continue for 16 weeks in both the fall and spring semesters
- Weekly contact hours in the classroom are about 18-22
- A 6 week summer session (optional) is also available when there is sufficient demand

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## ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE



## ELI Mission

The mission of Gallaudet University's English Language Institute (ELI) is to provide an intensive English as a Second Language (ESL) program for American and international deaf and hard of hearing students.

Bilingual instruction in both American Sign Language and written English provides a multicultural environment for ELI students to achieve academic, professional, and personal language goals.



## ELI Program Description

Students come to the English Language Institute (ELI) program in order to develop the English literacy skills needed to prepare for college. This is a pre-college program that does not offer college credit.



Placement tests are scheduled during ELI Student Orientation to determine student placement into appropriate classes. The tests also serve as a guide in estimating how long a student might need to remain in the ELI program.

The factors that influence the length of stay at ELI are complex and include the prior development of native language competency, existing English language knowledge and skills, and individual learning style characteristics. Typical ELI students spend two or three years with us, but some require more time, others less. Classes are offered at a variety of levels from Developmental English and Level 1 (low novice) to Level 6 (high intermediate).

In addition to English, other subjects are provided as needed. These include American Sign Language, basic mathematics, and cross-cultural studies.

## Seven levels of ESL classes could be offered per semester:

- Developmental English is a bilingual class where students learn both American Sign Language and English survival words
- Level One is for students with low novice ESL skills
- Level Two is for students with novice ESL skills
- Level Three is for students with high novice ESL skills
- Level Four is for students with low intermediate ESL skills
- Level Five is for students with intermediate ESL skills
- Level Six is for students with high intermediate ESL skills



At the end of each semester at ELI, students have the option of taking a college entrance exam known as ACT. If a student achieves a passing score, then he or she can apply for admission to the undergraduate program at Gallaudet University. The ELI will recommend admission to the undergraduate program at Gallaudet University for qualified students.

Most of the instructors at the ELI program are deaf, and all communicate readily in American Sign Language. Students without the necessary ASL skills themselves will be offered classes as part of our curriculum.

There is no need for interpreters. Our goal is to encourage ELI students to communicate directly and freely with their instructors.

Classes in other subjects may be provided as well. Subjects include American Sign Language, applied English, mathematics, and cross-cultural studies.

