Online Deaf and Hard Hearing Master's and Teacher Certification Experiences & Requirements

Sign Language Requirements

Students must have proof of successful completion of ASL I-IV, ASLPI score of 2+, or an equivalent to complete the program and be recommended for licensure. Please note that **sign language and pre-requisite courses are not available online**.

ASL I and II are often available through classes offered by a local community college or community organization. ASL III and IV are offered in some communities but are more difficult to find. UWM offers ASL III and IV in Fall, Spring, and Summer on campus.

Teaching Experiences

Fieldwork with children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing is required when taking courses in the certification focus. At the beginning of your program, you will work with your advisor to identify a child or children within a school or home setting with whom you can complete your teaching experiences.

Teaching experience can be completed in your geographic area. If you are hired to teach and obtain an emergency license, you may complete your final teaching experience in this setting, on-the-job. This experience will be supervised using distance technologies (Internet, video, email, telephone, etc.).

Praxis II for Teaching Licensure in Deaf/Hard of Hearing

To obtain licensure in the area of Deaf/Hard of Hearing in Wisconsin, you must receive a passing score (146) on the Praxis II Middle School Content Knowledge test. You will need to take and pass this test prior to enrolling in your final teaching experience.
Master’s Thesis Project

Each student in the graduate program is required to complete a Master’s Thesis Project that develops understanding of research, the research process, and an in-depth knowledge in the area of Deaf/Hard of Hearing. This Thesis Project is completed under the direction of a graduate advisor. The Thesis Project is expected to be an original, scholarly work that contributes new knowledge or unique thinking to the field of exceptional education. All students present their Thesis Project upon completion to faculty and other graduate students.

Graduation Requirements

The department will review your student file to ensure you have completed all of the above requirements. In addition, you will need:

- Successful completion of at minimum, 30 graduate credits
- Minimum grade point average (GPA) of a 3.0 or above
- No Incomplete, Not Reported, or Progress notations on record