

Transcript of Graduation Requirements

Throughout the interpreting program, students are required to show a commitment to the profession and the deaf community. I have now attended five different experiences which I will discuss now.

I attended Silent weekend #141 in the spring of 2018. Silent weekend, a weekend with only signing, is a camping trip that interpreting students, interpreters and deaf folks gather and spend the weekend together. We complete various activities such as scavenger hunts, hiking, and playing games. Silent weekend is awesome because there is complete access for deaf people, because everyone is signing. Of course, if you don't know sign you are able to communicate in different ways, not using your voice, such as writing back and forth.

Another event I volunteered at was similar to silent weekend. I spent a week volunteering as a lifeguard at OYO camp. OYO camp is Ohio's camp for deaf and hard of hearing children. This experience is one that deaf kids really look forward to because they have complete access all week. All announcements are signed and interpreted for complete access for both deaf and hard of hearing kids. Kids learn about each other's culture, including the history of deaf culture. As a lifeguard, my day duty was to explain the rules in and around the water and to make sure that the kids were being safe. When I was not guarding I got to participate in camp activities with the kids. This week was honestly amazing because I got to be completely immersed in the language for a whole week. It is an experience that I will never forget.

I attended the Good Enough conference on April 27th, 2019. This was a conference put on by the 2nd year interpreting students at Columbus State Community College. This conference was specifically unique because all the presenters were deaf. I did not participate due to the fact that I was a first year interpreting student, but I did observe and watch. The conference had a variety of presenters who discussed various topics and issues in the deaf community. I learned about some issues that I did not know about. I learned about deaf people's perspectives on this issues which was eye opening. I plan to attend conferences in the future like these to enlighten me on various issues within the deaf and interpreting community.

An event I attended that was similar to the conference was a webinar with Minnesota's interpreters of color. The webinar was a great learning experience for me. Most of the topics they discussed I was unaware of. It really enlightened me to what their experiences are in the interpreting profession as people of color. I realized that as a white student I need to be cognizant of these issues. One POC interpreter discussed their experience interpreting a house call in a majority all white community. They discussed that people would be staring out their windows wondering why this person was in their community. They discussed how they would likely not interpret that house call again because of the way they felt. It's important to realize that these issues still occur today and learn how it affects different people.

My fifth event that I attended was the online Deaf Cultural Festival put on by the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas. During this event I watched the ASL slam. In this section they would show a piece of artwork from the museum and the deaf poet would share the poem inspired from that piece of artwork. The next part I watched was the ASL storytelling. There were a variety of popular childhood stories told through ASL. This was a fun event to watch and I learned a lot about deaf storytelling and poetry through watching these.

All of these experiences affected me in a positive way. I learned a tremendous amount from these experiences.