On behalf of the faculty of the Department of Special Education, Language & Literacy, congratulations on your acceptance to the Program in Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at The College of New Jersey. Our teacher training program is the only one of its kind in New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, or Eastern Pennsylvania. We offer you an academically rigorous program with practical experiences integrated throughout your course of study. The College and School of Education also extend to you the opportunity to study abroad and/or student teach overseas. We will help you explore these engaging opportunities as well as others, one of which may be right for you!

During your years at TCNJ, full-time faculty members will advise you. You will have opportunities to discuss your course work or other academic questions that arise prior to, during, or subsequent to registration each semester. It is important to meet with your faculty advisor each semester to assure that you are on the right track and completing all necessary courses for graduation. Of course, we also look forward to meeting with you throughout the school year just to touch-base or to share in your learning and accomplishments. As well, we will meet with you to discuss career readiness and planning for your future.

**Your First Semester at TCNJ:** On the back of this letter, the College has compiled an “Understanding Your First Semester Sequence” document which provides a clear and ordered description of the recommended courses for your first semester and detailed information regarding the liberal learning program, including instructions for selecting your First Seminar class (FSP). It is important that you choose an FSP that is of interest to you. If there is overlap between your selections for an FSP and the Liberal Learning Civic Responsibilities of "global" or "gender", this would facilitate your studies. Selecting an FSP, which provides a "global" or "gender" perspective, is not a requirement, but it is a good idea.

A full-time undergraduate course load at TCNJ is 4 course units. One of those courses will be an FSP. I will preregister you for one or two courses required by the Deaf Education Program. This may include a math class and/or a course in language & speech development in children. You will also take one or two classes in your second major for a total of 4 courses. In addition, I will enroll you in a department seminar. This will appear on your schedule as SPE 099. It is a mandatory orientation seminar but bears no credit. While freshmen do not begin the study of ASL until the Spring term, you should know that if you have previous knowledge of ASL, you will need to take TCNJ's ASL Placement test. This test is given two times each year. Entering freshmen are encouraged to take the test in the summer prior to beginning college at TCNJ. For more information about the test, please see [http://specialeducation.pages.tcnj.edu/programs/american-sign-language/](http://specialeducation.pages.tcnj.edu/programs/american-sign-language/)

As Coordinator of the Program in Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, I am excited to have you join us. Like you, I look forward to the next few years. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions that you may have. I can be reached at strassma@tcnj.edu. Also, check out our program web site as many questions that you have may be answered there--[http://specialeducation.pages.tcnj.edu/programs/deafeducation/](http://specialeducation.pages.tcnj.edu/programs/deafeducation/)

I look forward to personally meeting you soon.

**Dr. Strassman**
Professor & SELL Department Co-Chair
Coordinator of the Program in Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
P) 609-771-2308
E) strassma@tcnj.edu
UNDERSTANDING YOUR FIRST SEMESTER SEQUENCE

Every major has a guideline for its first semester students: the First Semester Sequence. Within this sequence of courses, you will see Major Requirements, First Seminar Program (FSP), Liberal Learning courses, and Interdisciplinary Studies requirements. Please reference this First Semester Sequence while completing your online First Semester Worksheet.

Deaf Education – History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Requirements</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>HIS 210</strong> – Craft of History</td>
<td>(1 unit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SLP 102</strong> – Language, Speech, and Communication Development</td>
<td>(1 unit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MAT 105</strong> – Math Structures-Algorithms I <em>OR</em> <strong>MAT 106</strong> – Math Structures-Algorithms II</td>
<td>(1 unit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPE 099</strong> – Orientation to Education</td>
<td>(0 unit)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A ‘full’ load is four course units.

**Major Requirements:** The Major Requirements section provides a list of the specific courses you are required to take during your first semester. You will be preregistered for them.

**First Seminar Program (FSP):** The FSP is the cornerstone of the Liberal Learning Program. Please select six FSP courses from the categories on the left, and indicate them on your online First Semester Worksheet. View all sections on the First Seminar website: [http://fsp.pages.tcnj.edu](http://fsp.pages.tcnj.edu). Please bear in mind that we will only see them in alphabetical order, not your order of preference, and that we will make every effort to enroll you in one of the six.

**Interdisciplinary Studies:** IDS 102 is a required, online, non-credit course administered by the library staff satisfying the information literacy component of the Liberal Learning Program. You should meet this proficiency during your first semester. IDS 103 is our way of keeping track of your community engaged learning requirement. As above, you receive no specific academic credit for it, but you should complete it by the end of your first year.

**Liberal Learning:** Unless you earn credit from AP scores in one of the required courses in your First Semester Sequence, or are exempt from the Second Language Proficiency requirement, you will not be taking additional liberal learning courses during your first semester. However, you will eventually need to complete the liberal learning program as part of your graduation requirements. Please visit [http://liberallearning.pages.tcnj.edu](http://liberallearning.pages.tcnj.edu) and [http://firstreg.pages.tcnj.edu/liberal-learning](http://firstreg.pages.tcnj.edu/liberal-learning) to learn more about the different Liberal Learning Program paths. If you have any AP credits please inform the Department Chair about them.

**Summer Reading Program (SRP 99):** This required, non-credited program welcomes you to TCNJ’s intellectual community by asking you to critically read a thought-provoking book and share your insights about the book in small group discussions with your peers led by a facilitator during Welcome Week.