Admission Requirements

- undergraduate degree
- GRE score
- three letters of recommendation (one from the current employer, if applicable)
- TOEFL or IELTS from students who have not received an undergraduate degree from a U.S. institution
- statement of interest and/or relevance of program for professional development
- applicants without a college or high school degree from another country are required to take an interpreting aptitude assessment in their non-native language

Admission Procedures

Candidates apply directly to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. For information on the process and an on-line application go to this website:

http://graduate.wfu.edu/admissions

Interpreters and language specialists play an increasingly pivotal role in social, corporate, cultural, political and economic exchanges at both national and international levels.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 55 million Americans aged five and over speak a language other than English at home. In North Carolina, the population with Limited English Proficiency increased by 50.8 percent between 2000 and 2008.

Today’s corporations, governments and organizations are dealing in a globalized world fueled by ever-faster communication technologies. Overcoming linguistic and sociocultural barriers through effective interpreting and translation is vital to securing a competitive edge.

The current lack of professionally trained interpreters and translators has led the U.S. Department of Labor to project a 22% increase in employment over the next decade, faster than the average for all other occupations.
MA in Interpreting and Translation

The MA in Interpreting and Translation is a professionally oriented, research-based program that prepares professional language specialists for working in the growing language industry as it relates to a variety of fields like foreign affairs, media, business and law, with special emphasis on the critical area of healthcare delivery.

The curriculum also provides a solid preparation for those who may intend to pursue a doctorate in this new field.

The MA in Interpreting and Translation is one of three tracks offered as part of the new program in Interpreting and Translation Studies that begins in the Fall of 2011.

Graduates of this program will have a solid foundation in:

- Applied interpreting and translation studies
- Analysis of contextual meaning and extra-linguistic aspects of communication
- Cross-cultural awareness
- Sociolinguistics and dialectology
- Localization and terminology management
- Advanced technologies for linguistic services

In addition to the coursework, an internship component will allow students to make a rigorous connection between the practical experience in the workplace and their more theoretical experience in research and in the classroom.

Graduate Certificates in Interpreting and Translation

WFU also offers the following Graduate Certificate Programs for students who are not able or ready to commit to full-time graduate study.

- Graduate Certificate in Interpreting Studies—language specific
- Graduate Certificate in Translation Studies—language specific
- Graduate Certificate in Audiovisual Translation and Interpreting

The Graduate Certificate Program allows students to reach their career goals in a more flexible, customized manner. A student who completes three certificates can meet the requirements for an MA.

Demand for interpreters is expected to increase by 22%