

Distinguished Graduate

2022



Maria Escalera

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE DEAF SUPPORT SPECIALIST

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

- Eleanor Roosevelt

Maria Escalera is a first-generation college student. She is a member of the American Sign Language Honor Society. Maria received the Laurent Clerc Medal for maintaining a high GPA in all of her ASL classes. In the fall of 2018, she joined the American sign language interpreter training program. There were scholarship opportunities provided to Maria that paved the way to continue her success during each semester. Throughout her journey, from 2017 to present day, she’s remained active within the Deaf community. Maria volunteers her services to the Deaf choir programs at her church and Deaf events within the community. During these events she serves as both an organization member and a kids club caregiver. In the fall of 2021, she decided to change her major to Deaf support specialist where she would receive an associate of applied science.

Maria feels both grateful and blessed as she received scholarships from generous donors who made it possible for her to be SAC Proud and to succeed in this chosen path.

In January 2022, Maria decided to pursue an associate of arts in teaching with the intent to transfer to Texas A&M University San Antonio. In the spring of 2023, she plans to pursue a bachelor of science in interdisciplinary studies with a field of study in special education with dual certification as a bilingual generalist.