

American Sign Language

Overview

Career Studies Certificate

PURPOSE: This curriculum prepares individuals to communicate in American Sign Language (ASL), primarily with persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. Students also study the U.S. Deaf community from a cultural perspective.

OCCUPATIONAL OBJECTIVES: The American Sign Language Career Studies Certificate (CSC) leads to employment opportunities primarily as a classroom aide or teacher assistant in “Deaf and Hard of Hearing” or “Hearing Impaired” K-12 programs. The content learned and skills attained may also form a foundation for further study in numerous careers, including the following: sign language interpretation, teacher of “Deaf and Hard of Hearing” children, American Sign Language instructor, linguistics, and Deaf studies.

Preparation to become a sign language interpreter, as opposed to engaging in direct communication using ASL, is facilitated through completion of the American Sign Language – English Interpretation AAS degree. Completion of the ASL CSC by May along with placement in ENG 111 satisfies the prerequisites to begin the ASL - English Interpretation AAS in spring/summer annually.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS: General college curricular admission

PROGRAM NOTES: Students must take SDV 101 - Orientation to American Sign Language and Interpreter Education during the first semester of study. Students must also begin language study with ASL 101 (ASL I), unless placed into a more appropriate level by the ASL and IE coordinator via the ASL placement test. Students must attain a grade of “C” or better as a final grade in a prerequisite ASL course before enrolling in a more advanced ASL course. The ASL CSC is a five-semester program of part-time study designed to develop intermediate fluency in conversational ASL and a working understanding of Deaf people as a cultural group. Designed to begin in fall with SDV 101 and ASL 101, the first four semesters are each comprised of two courses (6-7 credits) leading to completion in 21 months during the spring semester when successful students may begin Interpreter Education coursework, while completing the final ASL/INT elective (2 credits).

Roadmap

Order	Course	Title	Credits
1	SDV 101	Orientation to American Sign Language and Interpreter Education	2
2	ASL 101	American Sign Language I	4
3	ASL 102	American Sign Language II	4
4	ASL 115	Fingerspelling and Number Use in ASL	2
5	ASL 201	American Sign Language III	3
6	ASL 220	Comparative Linguistics: ASL and English	3
7	ASL 202	American Sign Language IV	3
8	ASL 225	Literature in the Deaf Community	4
9	ASL 125 or ASL 208 or ASL 261 or ASL 262 or INT 106	ASL Elective or INT Elective	2
TOTAL	American Sign Language Career Studies Certificate		28

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