

American Sign Language

Associate in Applied Science in General Studies

Program Description:

This program is designed to give students foundation in American Sign Language (ASL) and to acquaint them with basic issues of concern to the Deaf Community. Furthermore, the program offers an opportunity to individuals already working in the Deaf community to increase their understanding of ASL and Deaf Culture in order to strengthen their knowledge and their communication skills.

Upon completion of the Associate of Applied Science Degrees in American Sign Language, The graduate will be able to:

- Effective communicate with Deaf person in informal settings in teaching, human services, or health care;
- Enhance their credentials for employment opportunities which do not require interpreter certification but do assign value to skills in ASL and knowledge of Deaf culture;
- Earn the academic qualifications for entry into advanced studies at universities offering sign language programs;
- Enter an interpreter training program, after which they may sit for a certification examination, sponsored by the national licensing organization.

Career Outlook:

American Sign Language skills are needed by professionals in public and private agencies and educational settings serving the deaf/hard of hearing people (e.g. teachers, counselors, consultants, therapists, specialists) by enhancing their ability to understand and communicate with the deaf and hard hearing. (<http://www.aslta.org/language/index.html>). In addition, sign language interpreting is a rapidly expanding field. Schools, government agencies, and private businesses employ interpreters. Interpreters work in a variety of settings including medical, legal, religious, mental health, rehabilitation, performing arts, and business. Part-time, full-time, freelance and salaried positions are available in most metropolitan areas across the country.

Salary Forecast:

Salaried interpreters and translators had median hourly earnings of \$17.10 in May 2006. The middle 50 percent earned between \$12.94 and \$22.60. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$9.88, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$30.91.

(U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational outlook Handbook, 2009)

Employment Opportunities:

- Enter an Interpreter Training Program, after which they may sit for certification examination, sponsored by the national licensing organization.
- Seek employment with an early intervention program that serves Deaf and Hard of Hearing children.
- A background in ASL and Deaf Studies will be useful in absolutely and field of employment.

Additional Information:

Other individuals that can benefit from this program are parents of DHH children and young hearing children, early childhood teachers and child care providers, teacher, paraprofessionals, speech/language pathologists, counselors, interpreters, and medical professionals.

Major Code – CE30

FIRST YEAR			
<p>Fall Semester</p> ASL 101 American Sign Language I 3 ASL 105 American Deaf Community 3 COL 101 New Student Seminar 3 COM 112 Oral Communication 3 ENL 111 Written Communication 3 IT 101 Fundamentals of Computers 3 TOTAL CREDITS 16	<p>Spring Semester</p> ASL 102 American Sign Language II ¹ 3 ASL 103 ASL Fingerspelling 3 ASL 110 American Deaf Culture 3 ENL 115 Written Communication ² 3 SS 215 Lifespan Psychology 3 TOTAL CREDITS 15		
SECOND YEAR			
<p>Fall Semester</p> ASL 201 American Sign Language III ³ 3 ASL 205 American Deaf Community History ⁴ 3 ASL 220 Resources for the Deaf Community 3 MAT 150 Applied Professional Mathematics 3 SS 201 Human Relations 3 TOTAL CREDITS 15	<p>Spring Semester</p> ASL 202 American Sign Language IV ⁵ 3 ASL 210 Deaf People in American History ⁶ 3 ASL 290 Applied Issues Concerning Deaf Community ^{7*} .. 3 SS 210 Fundamentals of Sociology 3 Mathematics/Science Elective ⁸ 3 TOTAL CREDITS 15		
HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION: 61			

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¹ ASL 102 has a prerequisite of ASL 101

² ENL 115 has a prerequisite of COM111, ENL 111, or ENG 101

³ ASL 201 has prerequisites of ASL 101 and ASL 102.

⁴ ASL 205 has a prerequisite of ASL 105

⁵ ASL 202 has prerequisites of ASL 101, ASL 102, and ASL 201.

⁶ ASL 210 has prerequisites of ASL 105, ASL 110, and ASL 205.

⁷ ASL 290 has prerequisites of ASL 101, ASL 102, ASL 105, ASL 110, ASL 115, ASL 201, and ASL 220.

⁸ Students may complete the three credit requirement with a second college level mathematics course or select from the following: SCI 101, SCI 120 or SCI 201.