

American Sign Language Studies (Associate of Arts)

The Associate of Arts (AA) in American Sign Language Studies provides students with a foundation in American Sign Language (ASL) communication skills and awareness of Deaf culture and community, in preparation for advanced study of ASL at a four-year college or university.

The degree is designed to allow students to successfully complete foundational ASL coursework, with emphasis placed on the General Education courses required by most senior institutions. The degree specifically focuses on preparing students to engage in practical, interactive ASL conversation, particularly ASL to spoken English and spoken English to ASL. Students complete courses that present the fundamentals of ASL communication, insights into Deaf culture and community, and an overview of the vital role ASL interpreters play as participants in equitable and ethical communication.

AA-American Sign Language Studies students conclude their coursework after satisfactorily completing the degree's practicum course—an immersive, capstone course that requires face-to-face interaction and engagement with individuals from the Deaf community.

To receive this degree, the student must:

- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.00 or better in all credit hours to be used towards the degree.
- Earn a "C" or better in major courses, in ENGL 1013 and ENGL 1023, and in courses that are prerequisites for other courses.
- Take at least 12 hours at the 2000 level.
- Complete the coursework listed below.

Program Outcomes. Upon successful completion of the program, the graduate will be able to:

1. Demonstrate fluency in ASL when conversing with both Deaf and hearing peers.
2. Communicate during face-to-face encounters in dialogic/one-on-one, small group, and low-risk monologic settings with a variety of participants.
3. Express awareness of and sensitivity to Deaf history, culture, and perspectives, including current concerns of the global Deaf community.
4. Develop skills and experiences necessary for applying ASL communication to careers in education, government, social services, and other sectors.

Program of Study

First Semester	Credit Hours
ENGL 1013 English Composition I	3
Any Gen. Ed. Social Science ¹	3
Any Gen. Ed. Fine Arts	3
ASLS 1003 Deaf Culture	3
ASLS 1013 American Sign Language I	3
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Semester Total:	15
Second Semester	Credit Hours
ENGL 1023 English Composition II	3
Any Gen. Ed. Natural Science (first in sequence) ²	3
Any Gen. Ed. Mathematics or Analytical Reasoning ³	3

ASLS 1023	American Sign Language II	3
ASLS 1033	Fingerspelling and Numbers	3
Semester Total:		15

Third Semester		Credit Hours
Any Gen. Ed. ENGL literature course		3
Any Gen. Ed. Natural Science (second in sequence) ²		3
ASLS 1113	American Sign Language III	3
ASLS 1133	Introduction to Interpreting	3
ASLS 1143	ASL and English Translations	3
Semester Total:		15

Fourth Semester		Credit Hours
Any Gen. Ed. Social Science at the 2000 level ¹		3
ASLS 1123	American Sign Language IV	3
ASLS 2013	English-to-ASL Interpreting	3
ASLS 2023	ASL-to-English Interpreting	3
ASLS 2033	ASLS Practicum	3
Semester Total:		15

Total Program Credit Hours: 60

¹ Credit will not be awarded for ECON 2113 and ECON 2213 or ECON 2223.

² A Natural Science sequence consists of two sequential courses in the same discipline (e.g., BIOL 1013 and 1023, PHSC 1023 and 1033, etc.). The first course in the sequence should be taken during one semester, and the second course in the sequence should be taken during the following semester. No lab is required.

³ PHIL 2113, Introduction to Logic is a Gen. Ed. Analytical Reasoning course.

For more information, contact the Division of Liberal Arts at 225-216-8165.