American Sign Language

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Undergraduate minor: American Sign Language
Undergraduate certificate: American Sign Language and Deaf studies
Faculty: https://clas.uiowa.edu/dwllc/asl/people
Website: https://clas.uiowa.edu/dwllc/asl

The American Sign Language Program offers two undergraduate programs of study. It also offers a number of courses open to all students. They include a four-semester course sequence in American Sign Language (ASL), courses for teacher licensure (see “Hearing Impaired Endorsement for Teachers” below), and courses on fingerspelling, Deaf culture, ASL literature, ASL interpreting, and other topics. The four-course ASL sequence satisfies the World Languages requirement of the General Education Program (see “Language for General Education” below). Classroom instruction is supplemented by video materials and interactive software in the Language Media Center.

The American Sign Language Program is administered by the Division of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.

Hearing Impaired Endorsement for Teachers

The American Sign Language Program offers courses that fulfill requirements for the Hearing Impaired Endorsement offered by the College of Education. The University of Iowa currently is the only institution in Iowa that offers this endorsement program. Holders of the endorsement are authorized to serve deaf and hard-of-hearing students from birth to age 21. The program is open to undergraduate and graduate students; applicants must hold or be in the process of completing requirements for an elementary or secondary teaching license. Contact the College of Education Office of Student Services to learn more.

Language for General Education

The following four-course sequence satisfies the World Languages requirement of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences General Education Program. Students must demonstrate 75 percent proficiency in the expressive and receptive elements of each course in order to register for the next course in the sequence.

ASL:1001 American Sign Language I 4
ASL:1002 American Sign Language II 4
ASL:2001 American Sign Language III 4
ASL:2002 American Sign Language IV 4

Students taking more than one calendar year off from the American Sign Language (ASL) sequence are required to contact the ASL Program to schedule a placement test which will determine their placement in an American Sign Language I-IV course. Students are strongly advised to complete the ASL sequence without such a gap whenever possible. Students taking the placement test and not placing into the next course in the sequence may be retested before the class begins if they have undertaken a significant experience since the last placement test that might warrant retesting. All retesting is at the discretion of the ASL Program.

Programs

Undergraduate Programs of Study

Minor
• Minor in American Sign Language

Certificate
• Certificate in American Sign Language and Deaf Studies

Facilities

The Language Media Center (LMC) is an essential resource unit for faculty and students in the Division of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. The LMC offers facilities and services for traditional language laboratory work as well as for foreign language video and computer-based activities. LMC facilities and services include a 50-computer information technology center (Windows and Macintosh), two digital audio laboratories, a multimedia development studio, a One Button Studio for video recording with Open Broadcaster Software (OBS), 13 media viewing stations, and six small-group rooms. The LMC also circulates a collection of over 3,000 foreign language, English as a Second Language, and American Sign Language digital media materials.

Courses

American Sign Language Courses

ASL:1000 First-Year Seminar 1 s.h.
Small discussion class taught by a faculty member; topics chosen by instructor; may include outside activities (e.g., films, lectures, performances, readings, visits to research facilities). Requirements: first- or second-semester standing.

ASL:1001 American Sign Language I 4 s.h.
Conversational skills, basic grammar of ASL; introduction to the ASL cultural community through readings, videos. Taught in American Sign Language. First in a four-semester sequence. GE: World Languages First Level Proficiency.

ASL:1002 American Sign Language II 4 s.h.
Continuation of ASL:1001; emphasis on ASL grammar and syntax; focus on culture through readings, videos. Taught in American Sign Language. Prerequisites: ASL:1001. GE: World Languages Second Level Proficiency.

ASL:1101 Fingerspelling and Numbers I 2 s.h.
Development of expressive and receptive American Sign Language fingerspelling, loan sign, and number skills based on word, phrase, and number recognition. Taught in American Sign Language. Prerequisites: ASL:1001.
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ASL:1102 Fingerspelling and Numbers II 1 s.h.
Development of expressive and receptive American Sign Language fingerspelling, loan sign, and number skills based on word, phrase, and number recognition. Taught in American Sign Language. Prerequisites: ASL:1101.

ASL:2001 American Sign Language III 4 s.h.
Continuation of ASL:1002; emphasis on ASL grammar and syntax; focus on culture through readings, videos. Taught in American Sign Language. Prerequisites: ASL:1002. GE: World Languages Second Level Proficiency.

ASL:2002 American Sign Language IV 4 s.h.

ASL:3100 American Sign Language Conversation 3 s.h.
Improvement of receptive and expressive conversational ASL skills through small group discussion, class presentations. Taught in American Sign Language. Prerequisites: ASL:2002. Requirements: students who have not completed ASL:2002, but plan to take ASL:2002 concurrent to this course may enroll with consent of the instructor; please contact the ASL program for more information.

ASL:3200 Topics in Deaf Studies 3 s.h.
Current topics in Deaf studies; skill development in communicative fluency in ASL. Taught in American Sign Language. Prerequisites: ASL:2002. Requirements: students who have not completed ASL:2002, but plan to take ASL:2002 concurrent to this course may enroll with consent of the instructor; please contact the ASL program for more information.

ASL:3300 American Deaf Culture 3 s.h.
Cultural practices, beliefs, and values of the American Deaf community. Taught in American Sign Language. Prerequisites: ASL:2002. Requirements: students who have not completed ASL:2002, but plan to take ASL:2002 concurrent to this course may enroll with consent of the instructor; please contact the ASL program for more information.

ASL:3400 Issues in ASL and Deaf Studies 3 s.h.
Current issues in American Sign Language and the American Deaf community, such as linguistics, culture, and literacy. Taught in American Sign Language. Prerequisites: ASL:2002. Requirements: students who have not completed ASL:2002, but plan to take ASL:2002 concurrent to this course may enroll with consent of the instructor; please contact the ASL program for more information.

ASL:3500 Deafness in the Media 3 s.h.
Exploration of the construct of Deafness through mainstream media (e.g., commercial television, movies, fictional and nonfictional literature in print and on the Internet); various ways Deaf people are constructed and presented for hearing audiences from the past 20 years. Taught in American Sign Language. Prerequisites: ASL:2002. Requirements: students who have not completed ASL:2002, but plan to take ASL:2002 concurrent to this course may enroll with consent of the instructor; please contact the ASL program for more information.

ASL:3600 American Sign Language Literature 3 s.h.
Introduction to the world of ASL literature, as recorded on videotape or film and in live performance; traditional folklore, storytelling, poetry, drama, oratory, jokes, and nonfiction narrative; analysis of genres in their social and cultural contexts as expressions of Deaf experience; how historical and current issues in Deaf culture are represented in literary form. Taught in American Sign Language. Prerequisites: ASL:2002. Requirements: students who have not completed ASL:2002, but plan to take ASL:2002 concurrent to this course may enroll with consent of the instructor; please contact the ASL program for more information.

ASL:3800 Independent Study arr.
An American Sign Language/deaf studies topic; individual study.

ASL:4201 History of the American Deaf Community 3-4 s.h.
Creation of a distinct language and culture of Deaf people in America during the 19th and 20th centuries. Taught in English and/or American Sign Language. Requirements: concurrent enrollment in ASL:2002, if not taken as a prerequisite. Same as HIST:4201.

American Sign Language in English Courses

ASLE:2500 Introduction to Interpreting 3-4 s.h.
Introduction to interpreting; history and current nature of the field, available opportunities, certification, training, ethics. Taught in spoken English. Requirements: students should have some familiarity with a language not their own (spoken or signed); ASL:2002 is prerequisite for the ASL discussion section.

ASLE:3905 Teaching Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students 3-4 s.h.
Issues in d/Deaf education; management techniques, communication strategies, teaching strategies, instructional materials, hands-on activities, assessments, parent involvement; use of technology, ethnic and cultural diversity, classroom management, pre-reading techniques, literacy development, educational program options. Taught in English and/or American Sign Language. Requirements: for 4 s.h. option—concurrent enrollment in ASL:2002, if not taken as a prerequisite. Same as EDTL:3905.