American Sign Language

Director, Division of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures

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Undergraduate minor: American Sign Language

Faculty: https://asl.uiowa.edu/people

Website: https://asl.uiowa.edu/

The American Sign Language Program offers an undergraduate minor. It also offers a number of courses open to all students. They include a four-semester course sequence in American Sign Language (ASL), 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 GE CLAS Core (see “Language for GE CLAS Core” below). Classroom instruction is supplemented by video materials and interactive software.

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

Language for GE CLAS Core

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASL:1001</td>
<td>American Sign Language I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASL:1002</td>
<td>American Sign Language II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASL:2001</td>
<td>American Sign Language III</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASL:2002</td>
<td>American Sign Language IV</td>
<td>4</td>
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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 Program of Study

Minor

• Minor in American Sign Language

Facilities

The Center for Language and Culture Learning provides a wide variety of facilities and services to the Division of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures (DWLLC), including a 24-computer Instructional Technology Center (ITC), five All-in-One Studios/

small group study rooms equipped with video production and editing software, a Computer Assisted Language Learning Lab with 25 computers integrated with Sanako software for language practice, and virtual reality hardware and development space.

The center provides spaces for quiet study as well as for group meetings. Departments, programs, and student organizations are welcome to host conversation hours, film nights, study groups, workshops, and more. Peer education services include peer tutoring programs in many of the languages taught in DWLLC, with both in-person and online availability, as well as the Directed Independent Language Study, through which faculty, staff, or students can be paired with a tutor to learn a language not taught in the DWLLC. Tutors are trained to use the Three Ms for Effective Learning, which include developing a growth mindset, using memory strategies to retain knowledge, and reflecting on learning gains.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• American Sign Language Courses [p. 1]</td>
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<tr>
<td>• American Sign Language in English Courses [p. 2] (language of instruction is English)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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) and visits to Deaf Awareness Week events. Requirements: first# or second#semester standing.

ASL:1001 American Sign Language I 4 s.h.
Introductory conversational skills and basic American Sign Language grammar; introduction to the ASL cultural community through readings and videos. Taught in American Sign Language. 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; exploration of Deaf culture through readings and 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, lexicalized fingerspelling, and number skills based on word, phrase, and number recognition. Taught in American Sign Language. Prerequisites: ASL:1002.

ASL:1500 Introduction to Deaf Studies 3 s.h.
Exploration of an overlooked American minority—the Deaf community; students learn to challenge the medical model for deafness with discussions of Deaf experiences, American Sign Language, and Deaf culture. Taught in English.

ASL:2001 American Sign Language III 4 s.h.
Continuation of ASL:1002; emphasis on ASL grammar and the signer’s perspective; exploration of Deaf culture through readings and videos. Taught in American Sign Language. Prerequisites: ASL:1002. GE: World Languages Third Level Proficiency.

ASL:2002 American Sign Language IV 4 s.h.
American Sign Language in English Courses

The courses listed below are taught in English.

ASL:3800 Independent Study  3-4 s.h.
American Sign Language/Deaf studies topic; individual study.

ASL:4201 History of the American Deaf Community  3-4 s.h.
Students discuss the roots of American Deaf community, exploring the development of a distinct language known today as ASL and the culture of Deaf people in America during 19th and 20th centuries. Taught in American Sign Language. Prerequisites: ASL:2002 with a minimum grade of C. 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. Same as HIST:4201.

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.