



American Sign Language (ASL) is the third most widely used language in America. ASL is a visual-gestural-kinesthetic language used by members of the deaf community in North America and in varying degrees in many other locations. ASL is not based on spoken English. It has its own grammar, idioms, historical contexts and cultural nuances.

Through participation in these courses, students develop the necessary manual communication skills to establish connections and work or interact with people who are deaf.

These courses are being offered in cooperation with the Sacramento State Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, and School Psychology.

Upon program completion, participants will be able to:

- Exchange basic information about themselves and their families
- Give directions and make requests
- Describe places, objects, and events
- Talk about people and places in a contextually-reduced framework
- Tell about past events

Audience

These courses are geared toward:

- Anyone interested in learning American Sign Language
- High school, community college or university level students needing to fulfill a foreign language requirement
- Individuals who work or interact with members of the deaf community

Benefits

The ASL courses enable participants to:

- Fulfill the Sacramento State foreign language proficiency graduation requirement
- Fulfill foreign language requirements at any institution accepting Sacramento State credit
- Earn 6 units of academic credit from Sacramento State
- Enhance their marketability as an employee
- Network with members of the deaf community
- Obtain a solid foundation for the pursuit of additional ASL training

Structure

The two courses, DEAF 51 and 52 are delivered online, total 6 units of academic credit and can be completed within one year.



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AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

Career Preparation

While additional training would be required to test for interpreter certification, these three courses will help participants prepare for more advanced levels of ASL training. Sign language interpreting requires the ability to pay attention to and understand what is communicated in both spoken English and signed ASL, and to clearly express thoughts, and ideas. Strong research and analytical skills, mental dexterity, and an exceptional memory also are important.

Courses

Each course builds upon its prerequisite and participants will not be able to advance to the next level without taking the courses in the following order:

DEAF 51 - American Sign Language 1

Basic vocabulary and grammar of American Sign Language. Upon completion, participants will be able to exchange basic information about themselves and their families such as their names, where they live, and their interests. Participants are exposed to elements of the deaf culture and community.

Web-enhanced.

DEAF 52 - American Sign Language 2

Expands vocabulary and concepts acquired in DEAF 51. Expansion of conversational range includes talking about other people and activities, giving directions, and making requests. Participants develop discourse skills appropriate for establishing connections with deaf acquaintances and handling a variety of interruptions.

Participants are exposed to elements of the deaf culture and community. Web-enhanced. Prerequisite: DEAF 51 or equivalent.

To learn more

visit www.cce.csus.edu/asl
or contact Liz Arellanes,
program coordinator,
at arellanl@cce.csus.edu.



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