

EDUCATION, BS: AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE STUDIES

The American Sign Language Studies Program offers an array of courses to prepare students to work with the Deaf community. Students completing this program will have a deeper understanding of American Sign Language (ASL), Linguistics, Deaf History, Deaf Literature, and Deaf Culture with an emphasis on the rich language and cultural diversity of the Deaf community as well as the social justice issues impacting their lives.

Several objectives will be covered during the program, such as Deaf culture, Deaf folklore, and Deaf literature, and the relationship between the signing community and the non-signing community. This program also covers linguistic components with several course offerings in ASL as well as specialized skill areas of ASL, such as a focus on grammatical structure and an overview of linguistic components.

Professions that find this program an enhancement to their work include (but are not limited to): interpreting, health care, criminal justice, education, exceptional education, psychology, social work, and more. Many of the courses offered through this program also satisfy certain GER requirements for the general student population such as foreign language (ASL I-IV) and cultural diversity (Deaf Culture or Deaf History). All students start with ASL I, however, if a student has previous experience with the language, they may be placed into higher classes by taking an American Sign Language Proficiency Interview and may be eligible for retroactive credits if they meet all requirements.

Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
	General Education Requirements	30
	Program Requirements *	49
	Electives to graduate †	41
	Total Credits	120

* Some program-required courses are approved as GER.

† Students also pursuing the ASL/English Interpreting major will fulfill many electives with those program requirements.

Preparatory Coursework

Based on individual placement results, some students may be required to complete preparatory coursework before enrolling in the courses listed here. This may include English language or composition preparation, developmental math, introductory chemistry, and/or student support courses for students participating in the First Year Bridge program.

General Education Requirements (GER)

UW-Milwaukee has General Education Requirements (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/#generaleducationtext>) that must be met in order to earn a bachelor's or associate degree. They include at minimum 30 credits (10 courses) in six categories that are designed to assure basic student competencies and provide a broad body of knowledge as a context for specialization.

Some degree requirements may fulfill GERs. Please review the requirements and consult with your academic advisor.

Code	Title	Credits
General Education Categories and Credits		
	Civics and Perspectives (CP)	6
	Communication and Literacy (CL)	6
	Humanities and Arts (HA)	6
	Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning (MQR)	3
	Natural Science and Wellness (NSW/NSWL)	6
	Social and Behavioral Science (SBS)	3
	Total Credits	30

ASL Studies Coursework

For all programs that require American Sign Language, students with previous experience in American Sign Language can take a proficiency interview to determine appropriate placement level. Information about the proficiency interview can be found here (<https://uwm.edu/education/academics/american-sign-language-studies-bs/#tab-9gki-testing>).

Information on advancement to program can be found on the Advance to Major (p. 2) tab.

Students must earn a grade of C or better in all ASL Studies coursework.

Code	Title	Credits
Choose one (prior to advancement to program):		3
COMMUN 101	Introduction to Interpersonal Communication (GER-SBS)	
COMMUN 103	Public Speaking (GER-CL)	
ASL 301	American Sign Language I	3
ASL 302	American Sign Language II	3
ASL 303	American Sign Language III	3
ASL 304	American Sign Language IV	3
ASL 305	American Sign Language V	3
ASL 306	American Sign Language VI	3
ASL 325	Skills Development: ASL V	1
ASL 326	Skills Development: ASL VI	1
ASL 327	Skills Development: Classifiers	1
ASL 328	Skills Development: ASL Depiction	1
ASL 330	Deaf History (GER-CP)	3
ASL 352	American Deaf Culture (GER-CP)	3
ASL 358	ASL/English Linguistics I	3
ASL 363	ASL/English Linguistics II	3
ASL 500	Fingerspelling & Numbers	3
ASL 510	Classifiers	3
ASL 520	ASL Literature	3
ASL 348	Introduction to the Profession of Interpreting	3
	or CURRINS 300	Introduction to Teaching: Colloquium and Fieldwork
Students from other majors should consult an advisor for alternate course options.		
	Total Credits	49

Requirements for Graduation

For information on credit, GPA, and other requirements for graduation, see UWM Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/>).

Second Degree Pathway

Second degree students follow the same ASL Studies requirements as first degree students.

Advance to Major

Advance to ASL Studies Program

- Earning a passing grade in ENGLISH 102 (or equivalent); or placing out of taking ENGLISH 102 by earning a suitable score on a test as determined by the English Department.
- Math Placement Level 30, or a grade of C or higher in any 100-level Math course (excluding MATH 194 or MATH 199) or MATH 111/PHILOS 111.
- Completion of COMMUN 101 or COMMUN 103, with a grade of C or better.
- Maintain a cumulative 2.5 GPA.
- For second degree candidates, a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.

Student Advising and Support Services

At the College of Community Engagement and Professions (CCEP), your success is our priority. Our dedicated student advising and support services team is here to help you navigate your academic journey, from your first semester through graduation.

Whether you're exploring majors, planning your course schedule, or preparing for your career, our advisors offer personalized guidance tailored to your goals. You'll also find a range of support services designed to help you thrive—academically, personally, and professionally. We're committed to providing a welcoming, inclusive environment where every student feels seen, supported, and empowered to succeed.

For more information, visit the [CCEP Student Advising & Support Services website](https://uwm.edu/community-engagement-professions/about/student-advising-support-services/) (<https://uwm.edu/community-engagement-professions/about/student-advising-support-services/>).

Email: ccep-advising@uwm.edu | **Phone:** 414-229-4707

Graduate Advising

If you are a School of Education graduate student, you may schedule an appointment with your faculty advisor by contacting your faculty advisor directly. Faculty contact information can be found in the Directory (<https://uwm.edu/education/directory/>). Your faculty advisor will be listed in your PAWS account.

College of Community Engagement and Professions Dean's Honor List

GPA of 3.750 or above, earned on a full-time student's GPA on 12 or more graded credits in a given semester.

Honors College Degree and Honors College Degree with Distinction

Granted to graduating seniors who complete Honors College requirements, as listed in the Honors College (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/honors-college/>) section of this site.

Commencement Honors

Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.500 or above, based on a minimum of 40 graded UWM credits earned prior to the final semester, will receive all-university commencement honors and be awarded the traditional gold cord at the December or May Honors Convocation. Please note that for honors calculation, the GPA is **not** rounded and is truncated at the third decimal (e.g., 3.499).

Final Honors

Earned on a minimum of 60 graded UWM credits: Cum Laude - 3.500 or above; Magna Cum Laude - 3.650 or above; Summa Cum Laude - 3.800 or above.