

American Sign Language Studies, Undergraduate Certificate

The American Sign Language (ASL) Studies Undergraduate Certificate program responds to the growing demand for skilled professionals capable of effectively communicating with Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf-Blind, and Deaf-disabled individuals across various sectors. As society becomes increasingly aware of the importance of inclusivity and accessibility, the need for trained individuals who can bridge communication gaps in education, healthcare, customer service, and social services continues to rise.

This certificate program aims to provide students with a basic understanding of ASL and Deaf culture through immersive learning experiences led by native ASL users. By equipping students with the necessary linguistic skills and cultural competence, the program will enhance their ability to serve and advocate for Deaf communities. Graduates of this program will be prepared to enter a variety of professional fields where communication with Deaf individuals is essential, thus increasing their employability and contribution to fostering inclusive environments.

Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
ASL 301	American Sign Language I *	3
ASL 302	American Sign Language II	3
ASL 352	American Deaf Culture	3

* Students who place into a higher level ASL course based on their proficiency assessment will take two ASL courses at their placement level to continue to develop their language skills.

Code	Title	Credits
Electives		
Choose one:		3-4
ASL 303	American Sign Language III **	
ASL 330	Deaf History	
ASL 500	Fingerspelling & Numbers	
CURRINS 300	Introduction to Teaching: Colloquium and Fieldwork	
ED POL 375	Cultural Foundations of Education	
ED PSY 330	Introduction to Learning and Development	
EXCEDUC 300	The Exceptional Individual	
NURS 101	Cultural Diversity in Health Care	
BIO SCI 202	Anatomy and Physiology I	
PSYCH 101	Introduction to Psychology	
TCH LRN 430	Perspectives on Disability in Early Childhood Education	
TCH LRN 501	Language Acquisition for Children of Diverse Backgrounds	

TCH LRN 612	Collaborations for Teachers with Families, Schools, and Communities
SOC WRK 100	Introduction to Social Work

Elective courses can be substituted with approval through your program academic advisor.

** Or higher level ASL class if placed above ASL 301 to begin program.

Minimum Grade Requirements

Students must earn a grade of C or better in ASL 301 (or the ASL course they place into) in order to advance to the next level ASL course. Additionally, students must earn a minimum grade of 2.0 in each course required for the certificate and maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA across all certificate courses.

Admission

The American Sign Language Certificate is open to:

- Undergraduate students with a minimum 2.0 GPA.
- Community members, who can apply for the certificate as a UWM Special Student at the undergraduate level.

American Sign Language Studies Certificate Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete the American Sign Language Studies Undergraduate Certificate will:

- demonstrate proficiency in ASL, effectively communicating through expressive and receptive skills while applying proper grammar and cultural awareness.
- comprehend signed conversations, narratives, and lectures, recognizing key details and linguistic variations.
- develop a critical understanding of Deaf culture, enabling them to engage respectfully and apply their skills in academic, professional, and community settings.