

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL) MINOR

Program Director: Michael Dunham

The American Sign Language (ASL) minor is designed for students interested in acquiring intermediate expressive and receptive ASL skills with in-depth understanding of Deaf Culture. The program plan includes four required classes and one elective (5-courses total). Emphasis on engaging with native signers from varied backgrounds is a foundation of the program. Throughout the sequence, experiential learning connects to the rich Deaf Culture in the DMV area known for one of the nation's largest Deaf communities. Participants develop communication skills while examining accessibility for greater advocacy and inclusivity. The core classes focus on sign language skills, Deaf Culture, and immersive community experiences. Electives include offerings in linguistics, world languages, education, and hearing and speech sciences. The coursework, immersion opportunities, and capstone project will benefit students in all fields of study.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Develop competency of expressive and receptive American Sign Language (ASL) skills (e.g., visual gestures, facial expressions, fingerspelling) at the intermediary level.
2. Recognize intersectionality of identities in Deaf community through exposure to multiple dialects and signing styles.
3. Demonstrate understanding of Deaf culture, history, and community through responsive and respectful interactions.
4. Engage in advocacy and accessibility efforts aligned to goals of Deaf led organizations (e.g., accessible spaces).
5. Students Planning to Continue Studies Post Graduation: Following completion of the American Sign Language Proficiency Assessment achieve a score of 2.0 or higher (pragmatics and linguistics).

REQUIREMENTS

Program plan includes four required classes and one elective (5-courses total).

Course	Title	Credits
Core Courses		
CHSE376	Fundamentals of Sign Language	3
CHSE476	Communicating with Sign Language	3
CHSE477	ASL III: Intermediate Sign Language Communication	3
CHSE480	Deaf Culture, History, and Community	3
Elective Course (choose one from below)		3
TLPL253	Language Rights and Repression in Education	
TLPL441	Methods for Teaching Multilingual Learners	
TLPL442	Foundations of Literacy and Biliteracy Development	
TLPL443	Cross-Cultural Communication and Multilingual Learners	
HESP420	Deaf Culture and ASL for the CSD Professional	
EDHD241	Are Two Languages Better than One: The Science and Controversy of Bilingualism	

EDHD310	Your Brain on Education: The Neuroscience of Learning and Development
EDHD411	Child Growth and Development
EDHD425	Language Development and Reading Acquisition
EDSP411	Foundations of Technology Integration for Curriculum Access
LING200	Introductory Linguistics
LING240	Language and Mind
Total Credits	15