

## American Sign Language (ASL) Overview

The American Sign Language (ASL) courses are central to the 30-credit American Sign Language Studies Certificate program which provides students with the knowledge and skills of American Sign Language (ASL), focusing on the uniqueness of ASL as a language, Deaf Culture and Deaf History. If you are interested in the American Sign Language Studies Certificate program, please see the Program Requirements Guide in the Liberal Arts Program section.

Not all ASL courses meet the MnTC goals. Students may reference the course descriptions to see if a course meets Minnesota Transfer Curriculum goals.

Course			Cr
ASLS	1411	American Sign Language 1	3
ASLS	1412	American Sign Language 2	3
ASLS	1413*	American Sign Language 3	3
ASLS	1414*	American Sign Language 4	3
ASLS	1415	American Sign Language 5	3
ASLS	1420	ASL Linguistics	4
ASLS	1430	Classifiers	3
ASLS	1435	Deaf Studies/Culture	3
ASLS	1443	ASL Fingerspelling and Numbers	3
ASLS	1446	ASL Non-Manual Markers	2
ASLS	1450	American Sign Language Semantics	3
ASLS	1469	Deaf Heritage of Minnesota	2
ASLS	1497	Special Topics in ASL	1-5

\*Meets MnTC Goal 8

## Department Faculty

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### ASLS 1411 American Sign Language 1

Introduction to American Sign Language (ASL), a visual/gestural language used by the Deaf Community. Course covers sign vocabulary, sentence structures, dialogue formats through facial expressions and body movements used in signing. (MnTC: Goal 8) 3C/3/0/0

### ASLS 1412 American Sign Language 2

A continuation of ASLS 1411, designed to expand students' conversational range from talking about themselves to talking about other people and activities, giving directions, describing people and making requests. (Prerequisite(s): ASLS 1411 with a grade of "C" or better) (MnTC: Goal 8) 3C/3/0/0

### ASLS 1413 American Sign Language 3

A continuation of ASLS 1412, designed to expand students' comprehension and sign language production skills. Through meaningful communication contexts, students will use communicative functions which include locating things, asking for solutions, discussing life events and describing objects. Use of appropriate cultural behaviors and strategies for conversational management is stressed. Receptive and expressive fingerspelling and information about the deaf community will further enhance the learning process. (Prerequisite(s): ASLS 1412 with a grade of "C" or better) (MnTC: Goal 8) 3C/3/0/0

*Information is subject to change.  
This course information is not a contract.*

### ASLS 1414 American Sign Language 4

A continuation of ASLS 1413 provides more complex ASL grammatical features, communicative functions and receptive fingerspelling and numbers. Cultural features will be stressed to develop competency and fluency in the language. (Prerequisite(s): ASLS 1413 with a grade of "C" or better) (MnTC: Goal 8) 3C/3/0/0

### ASLS 1415 American Sign Language 5

This course is an ongoing instruction of American Sign Language covering communicative functions, sign vocabulary, fingerspelling, grammar and cultural aspects of the Deaf Community. At the completion of ASL 5, each student shall be able to use these language functions and conversational behaviors appropriately in ASL. (Prerequisite(s): ASLS 1414 with a grade of "C" or better) 3C/3/0/0

### ASLS 1420 ASL Linguistics

Introduces students to the linguistics of American Sign Language (ASL). Students study the major features of language structures and the underlying knowledge for the social uses of American Sign Language. Content includes an examination of the structure of the physical signals of ASL, the customary patterns for combining them and the influence of signs on one another in connected discourse. (Prerequisite(s): ASLS 1414 with a grade of "C" or better) 4C/4/0/0

### ASLS 1430 Classifiers

Introduces students to the fundamentals of American Sign Language (ASL) classifiers. Students will enhance and expand the use of classifiers in their expressive skills and the recognition of classifiers in their receptive skills. (Prerequisite(s): ASLS 1420 with a grade of "C" or better) 3C/3/0/0

### ASLS 1435 Deaf Studies/Culture

This course is designed to help students understand and appreciate Deaf Culture and the Deaf Community. Deaf history, historical and modern-day perspectives, deafness and its impact, Deaf Culture/ Community characteristics, education, communication modes/ languages used by deaf people and the ramifications and impact of American Sign Language and Deaf Culture upon the lives of D/deaf people and other populations will be introduced. (MnTC: Goal 7) 3C/3/0/0

### ASLS 1443 ASL Fingerspelling and Numbers

This course introduces the students to the fundamentals of fingerspelling/lexicalized fingerspelling and the complex rules and patterns of ASL numbers systems. This course develops expressive and receptive fingerspelling and number skills. Receptive skills focus on whole-word recognition, distinction among different number systems, phrase recognition, and identifying fingerspelled words and numbers in context. Expressive skills focus on the development of speed, clarity, and fluency. (Prerequisite(s): ASLS 1414 American Sign Language 4 with a grade of "C" or better.) 3C/3/0/0

### ASLS 1446 ASL Non-Manual Markers

This course covers the non-manual aspect of the language. The use of the face, eyes and head to convey grammatical information will be covered. Students will analyze specific features. Other topics include ASL 'mouthing', showing emotion and inappropriate facial behaviors. (Prerequisite(s): ASLS 1420 with grade of "C" or better) 2C/2/0/0

### ASLS 1450 American Sign Language Semantics

This course is designed to expand students' sign vocabulary by analyzing multiple-meaning words and various sign equivalents. Language learning activities will focus on nouns-verbs, sentence types, classifiers, inflection of verbs with temporal aspect and distributional aspect. (Prerequisite(s): ASLS 1414 with grade of "C" or better) 3C/3/0/0

### ASLS 1469 Deaf Heritage of Minnesota

Covers the history of deaf people in Minnesota and its impact upon deaf and non-deaf Minnesotans. (Prerequisite(s): ASLS 1420 with a grade of "C" or better or instructor approval) 2C/2/0/0

### ASLS 1497 Special Topics in ASL

A variable credit granting course that focuses on special topics in the area of American Sign Language and Deaf Culture. Courses are designed to accommodate the learning needs and interests of students. Each course syllabus focuses on specific content areas which may not be presented or are presented in-depth in other ASLS courses. Variable credits 1-5