

# American Sign Language Studies CERTIFICATE

## Program Overview

The American Sign Language Studies Certificate Program 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. The program encourages students to become involved in the social and cultural activities of the Deaf Community. The curriculum provides a solid and basic foundation for entry into a career in a deafness-related field and prepares students for continued educational studies in a variety of disciplines. It is a pathway to entering the Sign Language Interpreter/Transliterators Program at Saint Paul College or similar programs at other institutions. Individuals who intend to, or currently work with Deaf and/or Hard-of-Hearing individuals in fields such as education, human/ social services, community service agencies, and vocational rehabilitation benefit from the opportunity to learn and develop stronger skills in American Sign Language.

It is necessary for students in the American Sign Language Studies Program to be able to process visual information.

## Career Opportunities

Completion of the American Sign Language Studies Certificate:

- Enhances the ability to work and communicate more effectively with Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing people in academic, agency, and business settings.
- Provides opportunities to enhance ASL fluency and acquire Deaf Culture knowledge which is applicable to a variety of educational disciplines.
- Prepares students to meet the ASL prerequisites for the Sign Language Interpreter/Transliterators Program.
- Enhances American Sign Language fluency for potential or current teachers of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing students.

## Program Outcomes

1. Graduates will be prepared to meet the ASL prerequisites for the Sign Language Interpreter/Transliterators Program.
2. Graduates will develop ASL skills and Deaf Culture awareness to more effectively communicate with Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing people in a variety of settings.
3. Graduates will meet world language requirements at the high school and college/university level.
4. Graduates will be prepared to take an American Sign Language Proficiency Interview and to meet K-12 Skill Levels.
5. Graduates will meet entrance requirements for undergraduate or graduate programs in ASL Studies, Linguistics, and Deaf Education.

## Program Faculty

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### Part-time/Full-time Options

Part-time and full-time options are available.

### Sign Language Interpreter/Transliterators Program

Students planning to enroll in the Sign Language Interpreter/Transliterators Program after completing this certificate program must meet the program standards and complete the Application to Sign Language Interpreter/Transliterators AAS Degree Major form to apply for admission.

In the Sign Language Interpreter/Transliterators Program, it is necessary for students to be able to process auditory and visual information.

### College Credit by Exam/Test-out

If a student has successfully completed a Saint Paul College Credit by Exam/Test-Out of ASLS 1411 American Sign Language 1 and/or ASLS 1412 American Sign Language 2, then ASLS 1415 American Sign Language 5 is strongly recommended. Students who have not had recent ASL courses (within the past 24 months) at date of application will need to refresh their skills by repeating their last ASL course.

Credits by Exam/Test-Outs are not transferable from other educational institutions.

*Information is subject to change.  
This Program Requirements Guide is not a contract.*

## Program Requirements

Check off when completed

Course	Cr
<input type="checkbox"/> Goal 1: COMM 17XX . . . . .	3
<input type="checkbox"/> ASLS 1411 American Sign Language 1 . . . . .	3
<input type="checkbox"/> ASLS 1412 American Sign Language 2 . . . . .	3
<input type="checkbox"/> ASLS 1413 American Sign Language 3 . . . . .	3
<input type="checkbox"/> ASLS 1414 American Sign Language 4 . . . . .	3
<input type="checkbox"/> ASLS 1420 ASL Linguistics . . . . .	4
<input type="checkbox"/> ASLS 1430 Classifiers . . . . .	3
<input type="checkbox"/> ASLS 1435 Deaf Studies/Culture . . . . .	3
<input type="checkbox"/> ASLS 1443 ASL Fingerspelling and Numbers . . . . .	3
<b>Subtotal . . . . .</b>	<b>28</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Select 2 credits from following Technical Electives . . . . .</b>	<b>2</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> ASLS 1415 American Sign Language 5 . . . . .	3
<input type="checkbox"/> ASLS 1446 ASL Non-Manual Markers . . . . .	2
<input type="checkbox"/> ASLS 1450 American Sign Language Semantics . . . . .	3
<input type="checkbox"/> ASLS 1497 Special Topics in ASL . . . . .	1-5
<b>Total Program Credits . . . . .</b>	<b>30</b>

### Optional Course

ASLS 1469 Deaf Heritage of Minnesota . . . . . 2  
Course is not offered annually.

*See back of this guide for  
Course Sequence & Guidelines for Placement*

### Minimum Program Entry Requirements

Students entering this program must meet the following minimum program entry requirements:

It is necessary for students in the American Sign Language Studies Program to be able to process visual information.

**Reading:** Score of 250+ or grade of "C" or better in READ 0722 or READ 0724 or EAPP 0900

**Arithmetic:** Score of 200+  
*If you intend to enroll in the Sign Language Interpreter/Transliterators program, be aware there is a program prerequisite in arithmetic and writing.*

**Assessment Results and Prerequisites:**  
Students admitted into Saint Paul College programs may need to complete additional courses based on assessment results and course prerequisite requirements. Certain MATH, READ, and ENGL courses have additional prerequisites.

# American Sign Language Studies CERTIFICATE *(continued)*

## Program Start Dates

Fall, Spring, Summer

## Course Sequence

The following sequence is recommended; however, it is not required. Not all courses are offered each semester; a selection of courses is offered summer term. Some courses are available day and evening; some courses are available days only.

### First Semester

Goal 1: COMM 17XX	3
ASLS 1411 American Sign Language 1	3
ASLS 1412 American Sign Language 2	3
<b>Total Semester Credits</b>	<b>9</b>

### Second Semester

ASLS 1413 American Sign Language 3	3
ASLS 1414 American Sign Language 4	3
<b>Total Semester Credits</b>	<b>6</b>

### Third Semester

ASLS 1420 ASL Linguistics	4
*ASLS 1443 ASL Fingerspelling and Numbers	3
<b>Total Semester Credits</b>	<b>7</b>

### Fourth Semester

ASLS 1430 Classifiers	3
*Technical Elective	2
<b>Total Semester Credits</b>	<b>5</b>

ASLS 1435 Deaf Studies/Culture	3
Can be taken anytime during the program.	

<b>Total Program Credits</b>	<b>30</b>
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\* Technical electives can be taken in Fall Semester and ASLS 1443 Fingerspelling and Numbers can be taken during Spring Semester.

## Guidelines for Placement in ASL

### Courses at Saint Paul College

#### Students with no or little background in ASL

If you have little or no background in ASL you should register for ASLS 1411 American Sign Language 1, which is the first course in our ASL language sequence.

#### Students with college-level study of ASL

If you have taken ASL courses at another higher education institution, you should have your transcripts evaluated in order to determine appropriate placement.

#### Students with high school study of ASL

If you have studied ASL for one year or less in high school, enroll in ASLS 1411 American Sign Language 1.

If you have studied ASL for two or more years in high school and can answer "yes" to three or more of the following questions, then you may take a test out on SPC campus.

1. Did you study ASL during your junior AND senior years of high school?
2. Did you graduate from high school during the past two years?
3. Did your teacher use ASL without voice in class?
4. Is ASL your primary language?

#### For-credit course placement Test Out:

Students may take a test out at their own expense to determine whether they have the linguistic proficiency necessary to enroll in our second, third, or fourth semester ASL courses. Students passing this test out will receive college-level credit, but will not receive a letter grade. For more information about this test, see the American Sign Language Studies page on the college website.

#### Non-credit course placement

##### Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI):

This exam has a fee and a documentation of SLPI rating will be required for non-credit placement. Students scoring advanced/advanced plus on the SLPI evaluation will be allowed to register for ASLS 1414 (ASL 4).

Students scoring intermediate plus on the SLPI evaluation will be allowed to register for ASLS 1413 (ASL 3).

For more information on how to take SLPI go to <http://www.msad.state.mn.us/Staff/SLPI%20Registration%20Form%202014-2015.pdf>. This is not associated with Saint Paul College.

These guidelines are subject to change. Please, make sure you are following the most current version.