

American Sign Language Placement Policy

Students are typically placed into American Sign Language (ASL) courses depending upon their years of study in high school or prior level of completion in college. However, students who have extensive prior study may apply for a waiver with a minimum rating of ADVANCED on the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI).

ASL Placement based on years of high school language study:

- Students with less than one year of ASL in high school may register for ASL 1001 (Beginning ASL I)
- Students with one full year of ASL in high school may register for ASL 1002 (Beginning ASL II)
- Students with two full years of ASL in high school may register for ASL 2001 (Intermediate ASL I)
- Students with three full years of ASL in high school may register for ASL 2002 (Intermediate ASL II)

Success in the study of any language is partially dependent upon a continuous and consecutive score and sequence approach. There should not be large gaps between courses, e.g. students should not wait a year or longer to continue the foreign language study once they have begun a language. This not only includes study at the university level but also the bridge between high school and university.

If a student has had a significant break since their last language course, they can meet with the ASL Program Director to discuss their options. In this situation, students may want to take one of the lower level courses to get back up to speed. Should a student start a level and realize it is too difficult for them, they may contact the ASL Program Director to request dropping down to the next lower level. This must be done within the first two weeks of class.

Heritage Speakers are students who grew up in an environment where ASL was widely used. The course level for heritage speakers will be determined after contacting the ASL Program Director to discuss options which could include taking the external placement test.

If the student's program has a language requirement and they want to waive it, the student needs to contact their advisor and then the ASL Program Director for information on the SLPI (an external placement test). Once results have been submitted to the ASL Department, the Program Director will reach out to the student's advisor to confirm the score and recommend waiving the language requirement or not.

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