

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE STUDIES



Program Contact

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American Sign Language Studies

American Sign Language (ASL) is a unique visual-spatial language that allows for effective communication within the Deaf/ASL community. Fluency in ASL and an understanding of the Deaf/ASL history, culture and community provides individuals with the confidence and ability to work and function well within that community. These skills may be applied to careers in ASL, interpreting, educating Deaf children, and related fields.

The Program

The American Sign Language Studies program at FCC is designed to introduce students to the history, culture, and community of ASL users. Students work towards gaining fluency and mastery of American Sign Language by acquiring foundational skills, vocabulary, acceptance and knowledge of the Deaf/ASL community and by gaining an understanding of this unique visual-spatial language. Students gain confidence by becoming involved in the Deaf/ASL community through coursework and internships. This certificate provides individuals with the skills they need to work with the Deaf/ASL community and Deaf/ASL individuals more effectively. All courses are taught by Deaf people who take pride in their language culture and community.

At the completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Apply and transfer their ASL skills at local Deaf/ASL community events
- Produce a class project or presentation using ASL
- Demonstrate their ASL skills in communicating with native ASL users
- Employ ASL skills during their internship in a signing environment
- Distinguish the language and culture between Deaf and hearing Americans
- Develop basic skills and knowledge about the Deaf/ASL community and apply that skill and knowledge in higher education or training programs to be ASL interpreters or educators of Deaf children

Estimated Salaries & Growth Potential

The median annual wage for interpreters and translators was \$44,190 in May 2015. Employment of interpreters and translators is projected to grow 29 percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations. Demand for American Sign Language interpreters is expected to grow rapidly, driven by the increasing use of video relay services, which allow people to conduct online video calls and use a sign language interpreter.*

An estimated 3,000 Deaf people and more than 6,000 American Sign Language users live, work and attend school in Frederick County, home to the Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD). Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., is the only four-year liberal arts university in the country serving solely the Deaf and hard-of-hearing students. These Deaf communities offer ASL students many opportunities to work within the ASL culture.

**(Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-17 Edition, Interpreters and Translators)*



Transfer Information

Students who achieve the American Sign Language Studies certificate have a strong foundation for further coursework in ASL, interpreting, and education of the Deaf or related fields. This certificate can be used to meet the elective requirements of FCC's Associate of Arts degree in general studies.

With the A.A. degree, students can transfer to one of the many institutions with which FCC has articulation (transfer) agreements. These agreements assist students in a smooth transition from one institution to the other.

For more information on schools that have articulation agreements with FCC, visit the Counseling & Advising Office, Enrollment Services Building, J201, or call 301.846.2471.

Financial Assistance

FCC participates in federal, state and local financial aid programs. Students are encouraged to apply for financial aid, and for scholarships offered by the College and community. Financial aid applications are available in the Financial Aid Office, J301, or online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The scholarship application is available at www.frederick.edu.

For more information about our graduation rates, the median debt of students who completed the program, and other important information, please visit our website at www.frederick.edu/gainfulemployment.

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For more information on American Sign Language:

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Course

Credits

Departmental Requirements

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| ASLS 100 | American Sign Language Fingerspelling and Numbering | 2 |
| ASLS 101 | Visual Gestural Communication..... | 3 |
| ASLS 102 | American Sign Language I | 3 |
| ASLS 103 | American Sign Language II | 3 |
| ASLS 106 | Introduction to Deaf Community and History | 3 |
| ASLS 202 | American Sign Language III..... | 3 |
| ASLS 203 | American Sign Language IV | 3 |
| ASLS 206 | American Deaf Culture | 3 |
| INTR 103 | Internship | 3 |