What is the American Sign Language Minor?

A minor in ASL at Indiana University consists of a 15-credit hour program that is devoted to intensive acquisition of the language. An in-depth understanding of Deaf culture also reinforces an appreciation of the Deaf experience through social, historical, and cultural lenses. Skills developed by the minor include continued advancement of linguistic and cultural competence, the ability to communicate in a variety of situations with deaf individuals who use ASL, and introspective unpacking regarding oppressive beliefs and behaviors.

Why add the American Sign Language Minor?

An ASL minor from IU offers opportunities to communicate conversationally in ASL directly with patients, clients, colleagues, and acquaintances who are Deaf. ASL minors will acquire an interdisciplinary understanding of the language and its culture and how innovative solutions for the issues that perpetuate the marginalization of Deaf people can be created for the betterment of society in general. The ability to communicate in ASL with Deaf people and other ASL users is an invaluable asset, especially in assistive professions such as hearing and speech pathology, nursing, social work, criminal justice, advocacy, and more. Additionally, a combination of ASL competency and cultural knowledge are strengths that create strong candidates for higher-level academic pursuits and future employment opportunities.

NOTE: The “non-teaching” nomenclature indicates that this minor does not lead to a certification or an endorsement for teaching ASL, nor does it provide qualifications in ASL interpreting, Deaf Education, or any other related professional field.

ASL Minor Course Descriptions:
*SLHS-A200 American Sign Language Level Three (3 credit hours)
Prerequisite: SLHS-A 150 or SPHS-A 150; or consent of instructor. Emphasizes the development of conversational ability. Examines complex grammatical structures, emphasizing the ability to use these structures in conversation. Covers characteristics of the Deaf population and their cultural values. Credit given for only one of SLHS-A 200 or SPHS-A 200.

SLHS-A250 American Sign Language Level Four (3 credit hours)
Prerequisite: SLHS-A 200 or SPHS-A 200; or consent of instructor. Provides further study of ASL grammar, syntax, and cultural features. Develops competency and fluency in conversational skills. Utilizes vocabulary, grammatical principles, and various discourse features in narratives and presentations in ASL. Credit given for only one of SLHS-A 250 or SPHS-A 250.

SLHS-A300 – American Sign Language Level Five: (3 credit hours)
Prerequisite: SLHS-A 250 or SPHS-A 250; or consent of instructor. Focuses on continued use of receptive and expressive skills and the acquisition of comprehension skills appropriate to ASL Level Five. Provides an in-depth exploration of major grammatical features, examination of the function of ASL within specific contexts and registers, and opportunities to transition from classroom learning to non-classroom conversational experiences.

SLHS-A350 – Structure of ASL: (3 credit hours)
Prerequisite: SLHS-A150 or SPHS-A150. Examines the linguistic structure of American Sign Language and how sign languages are similar to and different from spoken languages. Basic knowledge of ASL is necessary.

SLHS-A400 – Deaf Culture: (3 credit hours)
No Prerequisite. Provides an overview of American Deaf culture, including cultural identity, core values, group norms, traditions, communication, language, and significant contributions made by Deaf persons. Views and perspectives of and from the Deaf community will be explored along with implications of cultural differences when the Deaf and hearing worlds overlap.

*Courses may have either SLHS or SPHS designation

**ASL Minor Requirements:**

1. Students must complete a minimum of 15 credit hours of coursework taught in ASL including:
   a. ASL Minor Portal Courses:
      i. SLHS-A200 ASL Level Three (Pre-requisite: A150)* (3 cr)
      ii. SLHS-A250 ASL Level Four (Pre-requisite: A200)* (3 cr)
   b. Advanced Courses:
      i. SLHS-A300 ASL Level Five (Pre-requisite: A250)* (3 cr)
      ii. SLHS-A350 Structure of ASL (Pre-requisite: A150)* (3 cr)
      iii. SLHS-A400 Deaf Culture (Pre-requisite: None) (3 cr)

   * Or ASL placement exam advanced placement

2. Any course in which the student earns a grade of C+ or below may not be used to fulfill the minor requirement. The grade point average of all courses taken in the minor must be at least 2.3.

3. At least 9 credit hours of the minor must be completed on the Bloomington campus.

4. Priority acceptance to the program will be granted based on:
   a. Class standing
   b. Projected graduation dates
c. SLHS Majors

Note: Because Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences majors will be working with children and adults with hearing loss in their chosen career fields, it is imperative that students in these majors have priority acceptance into the ASL minor program.

d. Application/acceptance process scoring
e. Class size capacity due to instructor/staffing/space limitations

5. Students must complete the application/acceptance process outlined below:
   a. Students must meet passing grade requirements (C-) for SPHS-A100 and SPHS-A150 (beginning language courses)
   b. Personal statement video submission (in ASL)
   c. Written essay covering the following topics:
      i. Why are you interested in the ASL minor?
      ii. How do you plan to utilize the ASL minor?
      iii. What are your future professional/career goals?
      iv. Describe (and provide examples of) your understanding of Deaf Culture
      v. What is your ASL education background?
   d. Letter of Reference from previous ASL instructor(s)

6. Transfer students from other universities and students who test out of early levels in an ASL placement exam, are exempt from requirement “a” in the application/acceptance process listed above.
   a. Students who are unable to provide a letter of reference from previous ASL instructors must complete an interview with our ASL faculty for evaluation of ASL knowledge (i.e. ASL syntax) in addition to ASL skills necessary for a minor in ASL.

Notes:

a. Courses counting toward the ASL minor must have ASL as the source delivery language. (Content will be delivered by an instructor with ASL proficiency but may be interpreted into English.)

b. The following courses cannot be used to fulfill any portion of the minor: SPHS-A100, SPHS-A150

c. For detailed information about the options available to minors, consult the departmental office of undergraduate studies.

d. This minor does not lead to a certification or an endorsement for ASL teaching careers nor does it provide qualifications in ASL interpreting, Deaf Education, any other related professional field.

e. In fulfilling the above requirements, students must also meet all other College requirements for minors.

**ASL Minor Application**:

Application due dates:
March 15th
October 15th

ASL Minor Application Form
ASL Minor Potential Course Plan Options:
NOTE: All course numbers begin with the SPHS or SLHS prefix.

Freshman Fall
Freshman Spring

Sophomore Fall  A100 / A400 Deaf Culture
Sophomore Spring  A150

Junior Fall  A150 / A200 / A400 Deaf Culture
Junior Spring  A200 / A250 / A300 Level Five / A350 Structure of ASL

Senior Fall  A250 / A300 Level 5 / A400 Deaf Culture
Senior Spring  A300 Level 5 / A350 Structure of ASL

CONTACT US ABOUT THE ASL PROGRAM
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Personal Information

First Name *

Last Name *

Email *

Message Information
Reason for contacting the ASL Program *
-Select-

1. ASL COURSES
2. ASL MINOR INFORMATION / COURSES
3. ASL RESOURCES

Subject*
Thank you – We will respond to you as soon as possible.