Learn American Sign Language (ASL) and earn college credit!

American Sign Language is the primary language of many North Americans who are deaf and is also one of several communication options used by people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. A knowledge of ASL offers you an opportunity to set yourself apart when pursuing a career in health, education, or other fields.

Take one, two, or all three American Sign Language courses at George Mason University to learn how to better communicate with family, friends, clients, students, and others who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. You’ll also gain insight into the rich culture and history of the Deaf community.

Register today. Courses fill quickly!

Fulfills Mason’s foreign language requirement

ASL is a three-semester sequence that meets the foreign language requirement for majors for which there is such a requirement.

(over)
More reasons to learn ASL

Learning another language promotes mental flexibility. Learning American Sign Language is no different! You'll experience a different way of expression compared to spoken language while gaining a new appreciation and understanding for how other languages are structured.

Course descriptions

- **American Sign Language I**
  Undergraduate course number: EDSE 115
  Graduate course number: EDSE 515

  In this course, you'll learn basic person-to-person conversational signing. The course emphasizes the development of expressive and receptive skills as well as ASL vocabulary, syntax, semantics, and language pragmatics. Students also will explore issues of multiculturalism, linguistic code-switching, and language dominance.

- **American Sign Language II**
  Undergraduate course number: EDSE 116
  Graduate course number: EDSE 516

  This course focuses on intermediate level skills in American Sign Language. You'll gain increased competency in person-to-person conversational signing and more in-depth knowledge of ASL vocabulary, syntax, semantics, and language pragmatics. Students also will explore in greater depth the history and culture of the Deaf community and different modalities of communication used in Deaf education programs.

- **American Sign Language III**
  Undergraduate course number: EDSE 219
  Graduate course number: EDSE 519

  This course focuses on strengthening expressive and receptive communication through the development of narrative and storytelling skills. You'll also learn about the importance of these skills within the Deaf community and will study how ASL, accessibility issues, and more have influenced laws and policies in different areas of the world.

Transferring ASL course work

If you have recently taken an ASL course at another college, university, or high school, you may be able to transfer the credits, test out, and/or enroll at a higher level than EDSE 115 (or EDSE 515 for graduate students). Please contact speced@gmu.edu for more information.