Why take American Sign Language?

Students at Texas Tech University take American Sign Language (ASL) for a variety of reasons. ASL is a visual language used by Deaf people in the U.S. and in parts of Canada. Many high schools and colleges offer ASL as a foreign or second language.

Those interested in using ASL in their future careers often become interpreters or teachers. Teaching fields include deaf education, ASL, special education, and early childhood. There is a high demand for professionals in these areas. Additionally, ASL can be used in many other careers to serve Deaf and Hard of Hearing clients and customers.

Many students ask if ASL is “easier” to learn than other spoken languages. This is not necessarily the case. Some find learning a manual language more difficult. ASL is a language in and of itself, with its own associated grammar, syntax, and cultural community. ASL is much more than finger-spelling and differs greatly from English grammatically.

What can you expect from ASL classes?

We believe that it is important for students to become knowledgeable about the ASL language and culture of the Deaf community. For instance, ASL classes rarely use voicing (talking), and this important dynamic assists students to absorb and truly engage in the satisfaction of communicating in ASL. Learning about Deaf Culture is extremely important while the language is being learned. Our faculty are all exceptional teachers, with varied backgrounds, which offer students a breadth of cultural and vocational information.

Course Scheduling

Fall semester courses:

- ASL 1301 (ASL I)
- 2301 (ASL III)
- 3301 (ASL V)

Spring semester courses:

- ASL 1302 (ASL II)
- 2302 (ASL IV)
- 3302 (ASL VI)
- 3312 (Deaf Culture)

Note: No ASL courses offered during Summer Semesters

Minor in American Sign Language

Requirements for the minor are 18 hours of ASL which must be taken consecutively beginning in a fall semester. (Thus, the minor requires six semesters of ASL.) The courses are ASL I – V and either ASL VI or the Deaf Culture course. General studies majors can use ASL as one of their three areas of study.

At this time, Texas Tech University does not offer a major in ASL, Deaf Education, ASL interpreting, or ASL teacher certification. Students interested in those fields are encouraged to select a major appropriate for those careers and to minor in ASL. The College of Education can provide information about teacher certification programs.

Course offerings:

- ASL 1301 – American Sign Language I
- ASL 1302 – American Sign Language II
- ASL 2301 – American Sign Language III
- ASL 2302 – American Sign Language IV
- ASL 3301 – American Sign Language V
- ASL 3302 – American Sign Language VI
- ASL 3312 – Deaf Culture
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For more information about:

ASL at TTU
www.depts.ttu.edu/classic_modern/asl/

Interpreting
www.dars.state.tx.us
www.rid.org

Deaf Education
www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=2147497727

Teaching ASL
www.aslta.org
http://cms.texas-ets.org/tasc_certificationrequirements/

ASL & the Deaf Community
www.gallaudet.edu

Texas Tech University
From here, it's possible.