



American Sign Language Studies Program

Criteria and Information for Applicants

Thank you for your interest in the American Sign Language Studies Program offered at Northern Essex Community College. Program options are as follows:

- 1. Associate in arts, American Sign Language Studies**
- 2. Sign Language Interpreting Certificate**

1. The American Sign Language Studies provide students with a broad introduction to American Sign Language and linguistics, Deaf Culture, Deaf history and Deaf literature. Graduates of this concentration typically continue their education at other post-secondary institutions or else gain entry-level employment in agencies serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. See course sequence on page 5.

2. Sign Language Interpreting Certificate is available to students already holding an associate degree or higher. This certificate is designed to provide students with a foundation in American Sign Language and linguistics, Deaf culture, Deaf history, introduction to the interpreting field, and Interpreting. See course sequencing in the Academic Catalog at the link below:

<https://necc.smartcatalogiq.com/en/current/catalog/academic-programs/american-sign-language-studies/>

Enrollment into the American Sign Language Studies program occurs in the fall semester only.

In order to qualify for entry into any of the program options, all applicants must have completed ASL 101 and 102 with a grade of C or better, or pass an ASL assessment demonstrating that they qualify to enroll in Intermediate ASL I (ASL 111). Students who completed ASL 101 and 102 with a grade of “C” or higher can transfer the course in to NECC and receive the credits, however, they will

not automatically qualify as meeting the Criteria (prerequisite) for being accepted into the American Sign Language Studies programs. Students who transfer ASL 101 and 102, or acquired ASL through family, or other types of communication must take the ASL assessment. The ASL courses taken at other institutions will need to approval by the program coordinator to be used as prerequisites to enter the American Sign Language Studies programs.

Admission Requirements & Documentation Checklist

All applicants must complete the following items to be considered for acceptance into either program option.

1. Attendance at a **American Sign Language Studies Information Session**. Email deafstudies@necc.mass.edu to register.
2. Application for admission to NECC. Email admissions@necc.mass.edu This step requires an **official high school transcript/diploma** (even for applicants with college degrees) **or GED scores/certificate**.
3. Submission of **official college transcripts** to the Registrar from the colleges you have previously attended, if applicable.
4. **Completion of ASL 101 and ASL 102 with a grade of C or better OR completion of an ASL proficiency assessment**. There is no charge for the assessment. Email deafstudies@necc.mass.edu to put you on a waiting list for the next available assessment. **Students wishing to enter in the fall must complete their assessments by end of May**.
5. Completion of the **Academic Skills Assessment in reading, writing, and mathematics** unless GPA 2.7 or higher. For more information, go to <http://www.necc.mass.edu/academics/testing/>.
6. It is possible to be waived from the reading/writing/math assessments if you have successfully completed specific college course(s). Such waivers are determined by Student Services staff after your "Official" College transcripts have been reviewed.

Once all of the above requirements have been completed, applicants meet with the program coordinator to:

- Complete program enrollment
- Register for classes
- Discuss initial practicum placement

Additional Information

- **Transfer credits:**

Transfer credits from other institution(s) are awarded only for comparable courses which are completed with a grade of C or better. Transfer credits for Deaf Studies and American Sign language courses taken elsewhere will be reviewed by the program coordinator. In order to determine transferability, applicants may be asked to submit a summary of each American Sign Language or Deaf Studies courses previously taken, including: a) title of each course, b) course description as it appears in the course catalogue, c) number of credit hours earned and number of classroom hours per week, d) the name of instructor, and e) the title of text books used for each course.

- **Health requirements:**

Information regarding health requirements will be sent to you by Student Records, upon acceptance.

- **Transportations:**

Students must have reliable transportation for travel to and from practicum sites.

- **Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) and Sex Offender Record Information (SORI) checks:**

Students participating in an academic program which involves working with: 1) children, 2) people with disabilities, 3) senior citizens, or students who are registered in a cooperative education experience or in a program that includes a clinical affiliation with a private or public health care provider, will be required to undergo a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check, a Criminal Records Central Repository (CHRI) check and/or a Sex Offender Registry Information (SORI) check.

Students will need to provide a government issued photo identification and sign a release form allowing the college to view the student's CORI, CHRI or SORI reports. **Depending on the contents of a student's CORI, CHRI or SORI reports, participation in an academic program, a cooperative education experience or a clinical or practicum affiliation related thereto, may be denied.** CORI checks may be performed pursuant to Mass. General Laws, Chapter 6 Section 172, and consistent with guidelines promulgated by the Executive Office for Health and Human Services, And/or the Commonwealth's Dept of Public Health. SORI checks may be performed pursuant to Mass. General Laws, Chapter 6 Section 178(J) & 178(K). CHRI checks may be performed pursuant to New Hampshire law. For more information, contact admissions@necc.mass.edu.



Associate Arts: ASL Studies Recommended Course Sequence

Year 1, Fall Semester

ANT101 – Cultural Anthropology
ASL111 - Intermediate ASL I
DST101 – Introduction to Deaf Studies
ENG101 – English Composition I
MAT120-299 - Math elective

Year 1, Spring Semester

ASL112 – Intermediate ASL II
ASL203 – ASL Linguistics
DST102 Introduction to the Interpreting Field
DST191 – Deaf Community Practicum
ENG102 – English Composition II

Year 2, Fall Semester

ASL201 – Advanced ASL I
DST205 – Deaf Culture
Government or History elective
Science elective

Year 2, Spring Semester

ASL202 – Advanced ASL II
ASL205 – Deaf Literature and ASL Folklore
Free Elective
Science Elective

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Certificate: Sign Language Interpreting Recommended Course Sequence

Year 1, Fall Semester

ASL111 - Intermediate ASL I
DST101 – Introduction to Deaf Studies

Year 1, Spring Semester

ASL112 – Intermediate ASL II
ASL203 – ASL Linguistics
DST102 – Introduction to the Interpreting Field
DST191 – Deaf Community Practicum

Year 2, Fall Semester

ASL201 – Advanced ASL I
DST201 – Interpreting I
DST205 – Deaf Culture
DST291 – Interpreting Practicum I

Year 1, Spring Semester

ASL202 – Advanced ASL II
ASL205 – Deaf Literature & Folklore
DST202 – Interpreting II
DST292 – Interpreting Practicum II

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