

# AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE - B.A.

## College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Modern and Classical Language Studies

[www.kent.edu/mcls](http://www.kent.edu/mcls)

## About This Program

Ready to explore a captivating new language and culture? Look no further than Kent State University's American Sign Language Bachelor's degree program. With an innovative curriculum and endless opportunities to connect with a vibrant community, your journey towards fluency starts today. Read more...

## Contact Information

- Program Coordinator: [mcls@kent.edu](mailto:mcls@kent.edu) (%20mcls@kent.edu) | 330-672-2150
- Speak with an Advisor
- Chat with an Admissions Counselor

## Program Delivery

- **Delivery:**
  - In person
- **Location:**
  - Kent Campus

## Examples of Possible Careers and Salaries\*

### Foreign language and literature teachers, postsecondary

- 5.7% faster than the average
- 30,600 number of jobs
- \$69,920 potential earnings

### Interpreters and translators

- 20.0% much faster than the average
- 77,400 number of jobs
- \$52,330 potential earnings

### Secondary school teachers, except special and career/technical education

- 3.8% about as fast as the average
- 1,050,800 number of jobs
- \$62,870 potential earnings

## Accreditation

The American Sign Language teacher licensure program (through this major and the Education minor) is accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

\* Source of occupation titles and labor data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics'

Occupational Outlook Handbook. Data comprises projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years; nation-wide employment numbers; and the yearly median wage at

which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

## Admission Requirements

The university affirmatively strives to provide educational opportunities and access to students with varied backgrounds, those with special talents and adult students who graduated from high school three or more years ago.

**First-Year Students on the Kent Campus:** First-year admission policy on the Kent Campus is selective. Admission decisions are based upon cumulative grade point average, strength of high school college preparatory curriculum and grade trends. Students not admissible to the Kent Campus may be administratively referred to one of the seven regional campuses to begin their college coursework. For more information, visit the admissions website for first-year students.

**First-Year Students on the Regional Campuses:** First-year admission to Kent State's campuses at Ashtabula, East Liverpool, Geauga, Salem, Stark, Trumbull and Tuscarawas, as well as the Twinsburg Academic Center, is open to anyone with a high school diploma or its equivalent. For more information on admissions, contact the Regional Campuses admissions offices.

**International Students:** All international students must provide proof of English language proficiency unless they meet specific exceptions. For more information, visit the admissions website for international students.

**Transfer Students:** Students who have attended any other educational institution after graduating from high school must apply as undergraduate transfer students. For more information, visit the admissions website for transfer students.

**Former Students:** Former Kent State students or graduates who have not attended another college or university since Kent State may complete the reenrollment or reinstatement form on the University Registrar's website.

Admission policies for undergraduate students may be found in the University Catalog.

Some programs may require that students meet certain requirements before progressing through the program. For programs with progression requirements, the information is shown on the Coursework tab.

## Program Requirements

### Major Requirements

| Code   | Title   | Credit Hours |
|--|---|--------------|
| <b>Prerequisite Requirements <sup>1</sup></b>                        |   |              |
| ASL 19201  | ELEMENTARY AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE I                       |              |
| ASL 19202  | ELEMENTARY AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE II                      |              |
| <b>Major Requirements (courses count in major GPA)</b>               |   |              |
| ASL 29201  | INTERMEDIATE AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE I                     | 3            |
| ASL 29202  | INTERMEDIATE AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE II                    | 3            |
| ASL 39201  | ADVANCED AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE I                         | 3            |
| ASL 39202  | ADVANCED AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE II <sup>2</sup>           | 3            |
| ASL 39223  | SOCIOLINGUISTICS OF THE DEAF COMMUNITY (WIC) <sup>3</sup> | 3            |
| or ASL 49309   | INTRODUCTION TO DEAF STUDIES (ELR) (WIC)                  |              |
| American Sign Language (ASL) Electives (20000, 30000 or 40000 level) |   | 6            |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| American Sign Language (ASL) Upper-Division Electives (40000 level only)   | 6  |
| Major Electives, choose from the following:  | 6  |
| American Sign Language (ASL) courses (20000, 30000 or 40000 level)   |  |
| ANTH 48214   | POLITICS OF CULTURE (ELR) (WIC) <sup>3</sup>                                   |
| ASEI 43100   | SURVEY OF THE INTERPRETING PROFESSION  |
| ASL 19401  | EXPLORATION OF DEAF CULTURE  |
| MCLS 30420   | FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND CULTURE STUDIES  |
| SOC 32570  | INEQUALITY IN SOCIETIES (DIVD)   |
| SPED 43306   | FUNDAMENTALS OF AUDIOLOGY FOR STUDENTS WITH HEARING LOSS                       |
| SPED 43307   | LISTENING, LANGUAGE AND PHONEMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH HEARING LOSS |
| <b>Additional Requirements (courses do not count in major GPA)</b>   |  |
| UC 10001   | FLASHES 101  |
| Kent Core Composition  | 6  |
| Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning   | 3  |
| Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (minimum one course from each)  | 9  |
| Kent Core Social Sciences (must be from two disciplines)   | 6  |
| Kent Core Basic Sciences (must include one laboratory)   | 6-7  |
| Kent Core Additional   | 6  |
| General Electives (total credit hours depends on earning 120 credit hours, including 39 upper-division credit hours) | 50   |
| <b>Minimum Total Credit Hours:</b>   | <b>120</b>   |

<sup>1</sup> Students with previous study in American sign language should take the American Sign Language Placement Test and enroll in the correct course based on their score. Students who must enroll in any of the prerequisite courses based on their placement test score will earn general elective credit hours toward the degree.

<sup>2</sup> Students should show documentation of a proficiency level of intermediate or above on the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (administered off-site) upon completion of ASL 39202.

<sup>3</sup> A minimum C grade must be earned to fulfill the writing-intensive requirement.

## Graduation Requirements

| Minimum Major GPA | Minimum Overall GPA |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 2.000             | 2.000               |

- To earn the degree, students must successfully show documentation of a proficiency level of either (a) Intermediate or above on the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI); or (b) a 2+ on the ASL Proficiency Interview (ASLPI); or (c) a PASS on the Ohio American Sign Language (ASL) Assessment for Teachers of World Languages (Subtests I and II).

### Program Note

- Some courses in the Department of Modern and Classical Language Studies are offered on a rotating basis, and course availability may change at any time. Please see the program coordinator or your academic advisor for course planning.

### Foreign Language College Requirement, B.A.

Students pursuing the Bachelor of Arts degree in the College of Arts and Sciences must complete 14-16 credit hours of foreign language.<sup>1</sup>

To complete the requirement, students need the equivalent of Elementary I and II in any language, plus one of the following options<sup>2</sup>:

- Intermediate I and II of the same language
- Elementary I and II of a second language
- Any combination of two courses from the following list:

- Intermediate I of the same language
- ARAB 21401
- ASL 19401
- CHIN 25421
- MCLS 10001
- MCLS 20001
- MCLS 20091
- MCLS 21417
- MCLS 21420
- MCLS 22217
- MCLS 28403
- MCLS 28404

<sup>1</sup> All students with prior foreign language experience should take the foreign language placement test to determine the appropriate level at which to start. Some students may start beyond the Elementary I level and will complete the requirement with fewer credit hours and fewer courses. This may be accomplished by (1) passing a course beyond Elementary I through Intermediate II level; (2) receiving credit through one of the alternative credit programs offered by Kent State University; or (3) demonstrating language proficiency comparable to Elementary II of a foreign language. When students complete the requirement with fewer than 14 credit hours and four courses, they will complete remaining credit hours with general electives.

<sup>2</sup> Certain majors, concentrations and minors may require specific languages, limit the languages from which a student may choose or require coursework through Intermediate II. Students who plan to pursue graduate study may need particular language coursework.

## Roadmap

This roadmap is a recommended semester-by-semester plan of study for this major. However, courses designated as critical (!) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation.

| Semester One          |                                  | Credits   |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| UC 10001              | FLASHES 101                      | 1         |
| Kent Core Requirement |                                  | 3         |
| Kent Core Requirement |                                  | 3         |
| Kent Core Requirement |                                  | 3         |
| Kent Core Requirement |                                  | 3         |
| !                     | Prerequisite or General Elective | 3-4       |
| <b>Credit Hours</b>   |                                  | <b>16</b> |
| Semester Two          |                                  |           |
| Kent Core Requirement |                                  | 3         |
| Kent Core Requirement |                                  | 3         |
| Kent Core Requirement |                                  | 3         |
| Kent Core Requirement |                                  | 3         |
| !                     | Prerequisite or General Elective | 3-4       |
| <b>Credit Hours</b>   |                                  | <b>15</b> |

|                                    |   |  |            |
|------------------------------------|---|--|------------|
| <b>Semester Three</b>              |   |  |            |
| !                                  | ASL 29201   | INTERMEDIATE AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE I        | 3          |
| !                                  | ASL 39223   | SOCIOLINGUISTICS OF THE DEAF COMMUNITY (WIC) | 3          |
|                                    | or  |  |            |
|                                    | ASL 49309   | or INTRODUCTION TO DEAF STUDIES (ELR) (WIC)  |            |
|                                    | Kent Core Requirement   |  | 3          |
|                                    | Kent Core Requirement   |  | 3          |
|                                    | General Elective  |  | 3          |
| <b>Credit Hours</b>                |   |  | <b>15</b>  |
| <b>Semester Four</b>               |   |  |            |
| !                                  | ASL 29202   | INTERMEDIATE AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE II       | 3          |
|                                    | Kent Core Requirement   |  | 3          |
|                                    | Kent Core Requirement   |  | 3          |
|                                    | General Electives   |  | 6          |
| <b>Credit Hours</b>                |   |  | <b>15</b>  |
| <b>Semester Five</b>               |   |  |            |
| !                                  | ASL 39201   | ADVANCED AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE I            | 3          |
|                                    | Major Elective  |  | 3          |
|                                    | General Electives   |  | 9          |
| <b>Credit Hours</b>                |   |  | <b>15</b>  |
| <b>Semester Six</b>                |   |  |            |
| !                                  | ASL 39202   | ADVANCED AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE II           | 3          |
|                                    | Major Elective  |  | 3          |
|                                    | General Electives   |  | 9          |
| <b>Credit Hours</b>                |   |  | <b>15</b>  |
| <b>Semester Seven</b>              |   |  |            |
|                                    | American Sign Language (ASL) Elective (20000, 30000 or 40000 level) |  | 3          |
|                                    | American Sign Language (ASL) Upper-Division Elective (40000 Level)  |  | 3          |
|                                    | General Electives   |  | 9          |
| <b>Credit Hours</b>                |   |  | <b>15</b>  |
| <b>Semester Eight</b>              |   |  |            |
|                                    | American Sign Language (ASL) Elective (20000, 30000 or 40000 level) |  | 3          |
|                                    | American Sign Language (ASL) Upper-Division Elective (40000 Level)  |  | 3          |
|                                    | General Electives   |  | 8          |
| <b>Credit Hours</b>                |   |  | <b>14</b>  |
| <b>Minimum Total Credit Hours:</b> |   |  | <b>120</b> |

## University Requirements

All students in a bachelor's degree program at Kent State University must complete the following university requirements for graduation.

**NOTE:** University requirements may be fulfilled in this program by specific course requirements. Please see Program Requirements for details.

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Flashes 101 (UC 10001)   | 1 credit hour |
| Course is not required for students with 30+ transfer credits (excluding College Credit Plus) or age 21+ at time of admission. |               |
| Diversity Domestic/Global (DIVD/DIVG)  | 2 courses     |
| Students must successfully complete one domestic and one global course, of which one must be from the Kent Core.               |               |
| Experiential Learning Requirement (ELR)  | varies        |
| Students must successfully complete one course or approved experience.   |               |

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Kent Core (see table below)   | 36-37 credit hours |
| Writing-Intensive Course (WIC)  | 1 course           |
| Students must earn a minimum C grade in the course.   |                    |
| Upper-Division Requirement  | 39 credit hours    |
| Students must successfully complete 39 upper-division (numbered 30000 to 49999) credit hours to graduate. |                    |
| Total Credit Hour Requirement   | 120 credit hours   |

## Kent Core Requirements

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Kent Core Composition (KCOMP)                                       | 6            |
| Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning (KMCR)                 | 3            |
| Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (KHUM/KFA) (min one course each) | 9            |
| Kent Core Social Sciences (KSS) (must be from two disciplines)      | 6            |
| Kent Core Basic Sciences (KBS/KLAB) (must include one laboratory)   | 6-7          |
| Kent Core Additional (KADL)   | 6            |
| <b>Total Credit Hours:</b>  | <b>36-37</b> |

## Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Participate in informal conversations in American Sign Language (ASL) with other speakers of ASL.
2. Engage in some formal conversations in American Sign Language in workplace settings.
3. Watch films, plays and other multimedia presentations in American Sign Language with minimal need to use closed captions.
4. Interact in American Sign Language in culturally-appropriate ways.

## Full Description

The Bachelor of Arts degree in American Sign Language presents American sign language as a culture- and community-based language that interacts with other world languages. Through techniques — including immersion and bilingual-bicultural comparison classes, community interaction, research, lab activities and use of digital video technology — students gain documented proficiency in American sign language, validity within the deaf community and networking within the professional community.