

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE - B.A.

College of Sciences and Humanities
 Department of Modern and Classical Language Studies
www.kent.edu/mcls

About This Program

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

Contact Information

- 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

- -0.2% little or no change
- 26,400 number of jobs
- \$77,010 potential earnings

Interpreters and translators

- 1.7% slower than the average
- 75,300 number of jobs
- \$59,440 potential earnings

Secondary school teachers, except special and career/technical education

- -1.6% decline
- 1,094,500 number of jobs
- \$64,580 potential earnings

Accreditation

The American Sign Language teacher licensure program (through this major and the Education certificate) 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.

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 proficiency of the English language (unless they meet specific exceptions) through the submission of an English language proficiency test score or by completing English language classes at Kent State's English as a Second Language Center before entering their program. For more information, visit the admissions website for international students.

Former Students: Former Kent State students who have not attended another institution since Kent State and were not academically dismissed will complete the re-enrollment process through the Financial, Billing and Enrollment Center. Former students who attended another college or university since leaving Kent State must apply for admissions as a transfer or post-undergraduate student.

Transfer Students: Students who attended an educational institution after graduating from high school or earning their GED must apply as transfer students. For more information, visit the admissions website for transfer students.

Admission policies for undergraduate students may be found in the University Catalog's Academic Policies.

Students may be required to meet certain criteria to progress in their program. Any progression requirements will be listed on the program's Coursework tab

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
ASL 19201	ELEMENTARY AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE I ¹	4
ASL 19202	ELEMENTARY AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE II ¹	4
ASL 29201	INTERMEDIATE AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE I ¹	3
ASL 29202	INTERMEDIATE AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE II ¹	3
ASL 39201	ADVANCED AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE: NARRATIVE AND STORYTELLING	3

ASL 39202	ADVANCED AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE: PRACTICAL COMMUNICATION	3
ASL 39223	SOCIOLINGUISTICS OF THE DEAF COMMUNITY (WIC) ²	3
or SPED 43309	INTRODUCTION TO DEAF STUDIES (ELR) (WIC)	
American Sign Language (ASL) Electives		12
American Sign Language (ASL) Upper-Division Elective (40000 level only)		3
Major Elective, choose from the following:		3
ANTH 48214	POLITICS OF CULTURE (ELR) (WIC) ²	
ASEI 43100	SURVEY OF THE INTERPRETING PROFESSION	
MCLS 30420	FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND CULTURE STUDIES	
MCLS 40095	SELECTED TOPICS	
SOC 32570	INEQUALITY IN SOCIETIES	
SPED 43306	FUNDAMENTALS OF AUDIOLOGY FOR STUDENTS WITH HEARING LOSS	
SPED 43307	LISTENING, LANGUAGE AND PHONEMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH HEARING LOSS	
Any American Sign Language (ASL) course		
Any Translation Studies (TRST) course		
Additional Requirements (courses do not count in major GPA)		
UC 10001	FLASHES 101	1
American Civic Literacy Requirement ³		3
Kent Core Composition		6
Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning		3
Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (minimum one course from each) ³		6-9
Kent Core Social Sciences (must be from two disciplines) ³		3-6
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)		42
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		120

¹ Students with a background in American Sign Language, whether acquired informally or through coursework, should contact MCLS@kent.edu to take an ASL placement assessment. Students with prior knowledge of American Sign Language may be able to fulfill one or more of the elementary and intermediate language courses through an Alternative Credit option, or by starting in a higher level course than ASL 19201 via placement and making up the credit hours for any waived courses with general electives.

² A minimum C grade must be earned to fulfill the writing-intensive requirement.

³ If students complete the American Civic Literacy requirement by taking HIST 12061, the course will apply to the Kent Core Humanities category. If they complete it with POL 10101, the course will apply to the Kent Core Social Sciences category.

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 Sciences and Humanities must complete the following:

- Elementary I and II of any language (or equivalent) **and**
- One of the following options:
 - 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
 - One to two college-level course(s) completed outside the United States
 - Courses: ARAB 21401, ASL 19401, CHIN 25421, MCLS 10001, MCLS 20001, MCLS 20091, MCLS 21417, MCLS 21420, MCLS 22217, MCLS 28403, MCLS 28404

*The Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies is exempt from the foreign language requirement until fall 2028 due to its previous longstanding academic placement in the College of Communication and Information, which does not have a foreign language requirement.

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 courses. This may be accomplished in one of three ways:

- Passing a course beyond Elementary I through Intermediate II level
- Receiving credit through one of the alternative credit programs offered by Kent State University
- Demonstrating language proficiency comparable to Elementary II of a foreign language

Certain programs 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 a particular language proficiency.

Roadmap

This roadmap is a recommended semester-by-semester plan of study for this program. Students will work with their advisor to develop a sequence based on their academic goals and history. Courses designated as critical (!) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation.

Semester One		Credits
! ASL 19201	ELEMENTARY AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE I	4
UC 10001	FLASHES 101	1
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Credit Hours		14

Semester Two			
!	ASL 19202	ELEMENTARY AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE II	4
	American Civic Literacy Requirement		3
	Kent Core Requirement		3
	Kent Core Requirement		3
	Kent Core Requirement		3
	Credit Hours		16
Semester Three			
!	ASL 29201	INTERMEDIATE AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE I	3
	American Sign Language (ASL) Elective		3
	Kent Core Requirement		3
	Kent Core Requirement		3
	Kent Core Requirement		3
	Credit Hours		15
Semester Four			
!	ASL 29202	INTERMEDIATE AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE II	3
	American Sign Language (ASL) Elective		3
	Kent Core Requirement		3
	Kent Core Requirement		3
	General Elective		3
	Credit Hours		15
Semester Five			
!	ASL 39201	ADVANCED AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE: or NARRATIVE AND STORYTELLING	3
	ASL 39202	or ADVANCED AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE: PRACTICAL COMMUNICATION	
	ASL 39223	SOCIOLINGUISTICS OF THE DEAF COMMUNITY or (WIC)	3
	SPED 43309	or INTRODUCTION TO DEAF STUDIES (ELR) (WIC)	
	or Major Elective		
	American Sign Language (ASL) Elective		3
	General Electives		6
	Credit Hours		15
Semester Six			
!	ASL 39201	ADVANCED AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE: or NARRATIVE AND STORYTELLING	3
	ASL 39202	or ADVANCED AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE: PRACTICAL COMMUNICATION	
	ASL 39223	SOCIOLINGUISTICS OF THE DEAF COMMUNITY or (WIC)	3
	SPED 43309	or INTRODUCTION TO DEAF STUDIES (ELR) (WIC)	
	or Major Elective		
	General Electives		9
	Credit Hours		15
Semester Seven			
	American Sign Language (ASL) Elective		3
	American Sign Language (ASL) Upper-Division Elective (40000 level)		3
	General Electives		9
	Credit Hours		15
Semester Eight			
	General Electives		15
	Credit Hours		15
	Minimum Total Credit Hours:		120

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.	
American Civic Literacy	3 credit hours
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 (KCMP)	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
Total Credit Hours:	36-37

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Participate in informal conversations with other speakers of American Sign Language.
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.

Program Policies

Foreign Language Requirements

In general, students may elect any foreign language taught through the Department of Modern and Classical Language Studies. However, certain majors, concentrations and minors require specific languages or limit the languages from which students may choose. In addition, students who plan to pursue graduate study may need particular languages for that

study. In such cases, students should seek the advice of the appropriate department before selecting a language.

Progress Toward Fulfillment

College of Sciences and Humanities students are encouraged to begin meeting the foreign language requirement as early as possible in their program to ensure timely degree completion.

Mandatory Outcomes Assessment

In addition to the other General Requirements of the college, candidates for an undergraduate degree in the College of Sciences and Humanities are required, as a condition of graduation, to participate in an outcomes assessment. These outcomes assessments are conducted by each undergraduate degree program in the College of Sciences and Humanities.

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.