SIGN LANGUAGE STUDIES

American Sign Language (ASL) is the language used by Deaf people in the United States and parts of Canada. ASL courses are offered for General Education credits for students earning an associate degree from PCC, and 200-level core courses satisfy the language requirement for the Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer (AAOT). With the exception of ASL 240, American Sign Language is used in classes; no spoken English is used. This immersive approach teaches students through conversation using ASL and prepares them to function comfortably in a variety of situations in the Deaf community. Completion of ASL courses does not qualify a student to perform interpreting services. Interpreting requires formal training and assessments. Students who are interested in interpreting as a career, please see the catalog description under Sign Language Interpretation and the Sign Language Interpretation Admissions Page.

PCC offers a one-year certificate in Deaf Studies. The prerequisites for both the Deaf Studies certificate and the Sign Language Interpreting Program are 24 credits of ASL courses, ASL 240 (Introduction to the Deaf Community), and WR 121. Those students who have learned some ASL before coming to PCC may request an ASL skills assessment interview for placement in the appropriate level ASL course.

All students who enroll in American Sign Language classes, including those on the waiting list, are expected to attend the first class session, when material essential for successful completion of the course will be presented. Students who do not attend the first class session may be replaced by those who do attend. Students who have previously studied sign language elsewhere or who are returning to study ASL after more than a six month absence must make an appointment for a placement interview by calling the department phone number listed at the top of this page.

There are no prerequisites for entry into the first term of American Sign Language. However, students should read the course descriptions for the prerequisites for other American Sign Language courses to determine their eligibility. ASL core courses are offered in both regular and accelerated formats. The regular courses are four credits per term, while the accelerated courses are six credits per term. Students can switch from regular to accelerated courses (or the reverse) between the 100 level and the 200 level, but not within one level.

ASL 101. First Year American Sign Language I. 4 Credits.
Introduction to ASL stressing the development of expressive skill, receptive skill, and cultural awareness through a communication approach. Primary emphasis on the student’s active use of the language. Emphasizes active conversational competence in ASL. Includes visual readiness skills, vocabulary, culture and grammar used for meeting communication needs. Proficiency target level: Intermediat level. Prerequisite: ASL 102 or Sign Language Proficiency Interview through Sign Language Interpretation Program (call SLIP office for an appointment). Prerequisite course must have been completed within one year of class enrollment; proficiency interview within one term. This course fulfills the following GE requirements: Arts and Letters/AAAS, Arts and Letters/AGS, Arts and Letters/AS.

ASL 102. First Year American Sign Language II. 4 Credits.
Continues work of ASL 101, further developing all skills. Primary emphasis on the student’s active communication in ASL. Includes grammar and culture information. Proficiency target level: Intermediate low. Prerequisite: ASL 101 or ASL 150 or Sign Language Proficiency Interview through Sign Language Interpretation Program (call SLIP office for an appointment). Prerequisite course must have been completed within one year of class enrollment; proficiency interview within one term. This course fulfills the following GE requirements: Arts and Letters/AAAS, Arts and Letters/AGS, Arts and Letters/AS.

ASL 103. First Year American Sign Language III. 4 Credits.
Continues work of ASL 102, further developing all skills. Primary emphasis on the student’s active communication in ASL. Includes grammar and culture information. Proficiency target level: Intermediate low. Prerequisite: ASL 102 or Sign Language Proficiency Interview through Sign Language Interpretation Program (call SLIP office for an appointment). Prerequisite course must have been completed within one year of class enrollment; proficiency interview within one term. This course fulfills the following GE requirements: Arts and Letters/AAAS, Arts and Letters/AGS, Arts and Letters/AS.

ASL 150. Accelerated American Sign Language. 6 Credits.
For beginners. Covers the material of ASL 101 and half of ASL 102 in an accelerated format. Emphasizes active conversational competence in ASL. Includes visual readiness skills, vocabulary, culture and grammar used for meeting communication needs. Recommended to the highly motivated student. Proficiency target level: Intermediate low. This course fulfills the following GE requirements: Arts and Letters/AAAS, Arts and Letters/AGS, Arts and Letters/AS.

ASL 151. Accelerated American Sign Language. 6 Credits.
Covers the material of half of ASL 101 and ASL 102 in an accelerated format. Emphasizes active communication in ASL. Proficiency target level: Intermediate mid. Sign Language Proficiency Interview may be required. Prerequisite: ASL 102 or ASL 150. Prerequisite course must have been completed within one year of class enrollment; proficiency interview within one term. This course fulfills the following GE requirements: Arts and Letters/AAAS, Arts and Letters/AGS, Arts and Letters/AS.

ASL 201. Second Year American Sign Language IV. 4 Credits.
First term of a three-term sequence that continues the work of first year ASL. Emphasizes active conversational competence in ASL. Includes grammar and culture information. Proficiency target level: Intermediate mid. Sign Language Proficiency Interview may be required. Prerequisite: ASL 103 or ASL 151. Prerequisite course must have been completed within one year of class enrollment; and Sign Language Proficiency Interview within one term.

ASL 202. Second Year American Sign Language V. 4 Credits.
Second term of a three-term sequence that continues the work of ASL 201. Emphasizes active communication in ASL. Includes grammar and culture information. Proficiency target level: Intermediate mid. Sign Language Proficiency Interview may be required. Prerequisite: ASL 103 or ASL 151. Prerequisite course must have been completed within one year of class enrollment; and Sign Language Proficiency Interview within one term.

ASL 203. Second Year American Sign Language VI. 4 Credits.
Third term of a three-term sequence that continues the work of ASL 202. Emphasizes active communicaton in ASL. Includes grammar and culture information. Proficiency target level: Intermediate high. Sign Language Proficiency Interview may be required. Prerequisite: ASL 103 or ASL 151. Prerequisite course must have been completed within one year of class enrollment; and Sign Language Proficiency Interview within one term.

ASL 210. American Sign Language Literature. 4 Credits.
Emphasizes skills for generation of ASL literature including: ASL narratives, ASL storytelling, ASL poetry, ASL fiction, and other topics. Includes grammar and culture information. Prerequisite: ASL 102 or ASL 150. Prerequisite course must have been completed within one year of class enrollment; and Sign Language Proficiency Interview within one term.

ASL 240. Introduction to the Deaf Community. 4 Credits.
Introduces pathological and cultural perspectives of Deaf people and their community, Deaf history and organizations; Deaf people's involvement in and access to the arts, and perspectives on education. Covers services, employment, legislation, special technology, communication systems and attitudes toward languages and their impact on the Deaf community. Introduces basic terminology and explains the difference between signers and interpreters. Prerequisites: (WR 115 and RD 115) or IRW 115 and MTH 20 or equivalent placement. This course fulfills the following GE requirements: Cultural Literacy, Arts and Letters/AAAS, Arts and Letters/AGS, Arts and Letters/AS.

ASL 250. Accelerated American Sign Language. 6 Credits.
First term of a two-term sequence that covers the material of ASL 201 and half of ASL 202 to continue the work of first year ASL in an accelerated format. Emphasizes active conversational competence in ASL. Includes visual readiness skills, vocabulary, culture and grammar used for meeting communication needs. Recommended to the highly motivated student. Proficiency target level: Intermediate low. Prerequisite: ASL 103 or ASL 151. Prerequisite course must have been completed within one year of class enrollment; and Sign Language Proficiency Interview within one term.
ASL 251. Accelerated American Sign Language. 6 Credits.
Second term of a two-semester sequence that covers the material of half of ASL 202 and ASL 203 to continue the work of ASL 250 in an accelerated format. Emphasizes active communication in ASL. Emphasizes ASL narratives, ASL storytelling, and other topics. Proficiency target level Advanced Mid. Sign Language Proficiency Interview may be required. Prerequisite: ASL 202 or ASL 250. Prerequisite course must have been completed within one year of class enrollment; and Sign Language Proficiency Interview within one term.

ASL 260. Introduction to Interpreting. 3 Credits.
Introduces sign language interpreting as a profession. Includes the roles and functions of interpreters; employment options; and an analysis of the demands and rewards of the career path. Covers fundamental pre-interpreting skills and reviews linguistic and grammatical principles and conventions. Explores strategies for developing ASL and English vocabulary and skills for effective communication. Prerequisite: ASL 103 or ASL 151, or equivalent.

ASL 265. Fingerspelling and Numbers for ASL Students. 2 Credits.
Develops fundamental expressive and receptive fingerspelling skills for the intermediate signer. Presents rules for ASL fingerspelling and number production in context. Improves ability to comprehend fingerspelling. Develops cloze skills (filling in missed letters by using contextual clues and background knowledge), and continues development of letter and number production as begun in core ASL classes. Prerequisites: ASL 201 or ASL 250.

ITP 111. American Sign Language I. 5 Credits.
Focuses on grammatical features, non-manual markers, and advanced language skill development in ASL. Recommended: prior public speaking course. Prerequisite: Admission to Sign Language Interpretation program or Deaf Studies program and department permission required.

ITP 112. American Sign Language II. 5 Credits.
Focuses on grammatical features, non-manual behaviors and higher language skill development in ASL. Includes a wide range of academic topics in ASL. Prerequisites: ITP 111 and admission to the Sign Language Interpretation program and department permission required.

ITP 113. American Sign Language III. 5 Credits.
Focuses on additional grammatical features, non-manual markers, advanced language skill development, including discourse skills, in ASL. Prerequisites: ITP 112 and admission to Sign Language Interpretation program and department permission.

ITP 120. Fingerspelling I. 2 Credits.
Emphasizes increased fingerspelling skills by incorporating them into the context of ASL conversation. Introduces some strategies and proper production when fingerspelling. Prerequisite: Admission into Sign Language Interpretation program required.

ITP 121. Fingerspelling II. 2 Credits.
Emphasizes increased fingerspelling skills by incorporating them into the context of advanced ASL conversations. Prerequisites: ITP 120 and admission into Sign Language Interpretation program.

ITP 180. Field Experience: Applied ASL. 2 Credits.
Provides practical experience through observations of professional interpreters. Includes participation in professional development, Deaf community activities, and interaction with Deaf children/adults. Explores relevant issues through journals, discussions, and presentations. Required: Criminal background check and good standing in the Sign Language Interpretation program. Prerequisite: Department permission required. Corequisite: ITP 112, ITP 265.

ITP 211. American Sign Language IV. 4 Credits.
Focuses on more advanced grammatical features, non-manual markers, language skill development, register continuum, and discourse skill in ASL. Prerequisites: ITP 113 and admission to the Sign Language Interpretation program and department permission required.

ITP 212. American Sign Language V. 4 Credits.
Focuses on more advanced grammatical features, non-manual markers, language skill development, register continuum, and discourse skill in ASL. Prerequisites: ITP 211 and admission to the Sign Language Interpretation program and department permission required.

ITP 230. American Sign Language Linguistics I. 3 Credits.
Explores the basic concepts of linguistics as they pertain to ASL. Analyzes and discusses phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, language use, and sociolinguistic structure of ASL. Explores current research in ASL. Prerequisite: Admission into Sign Language Interpretation Program and instructor permission.

ITP 231. American Sign Language Linguistics II. 3 Credits.
Analyzes and explores additional phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, variation and historical change of ASL. Explores the discourse structure of ASL. Prerequisite: ITP 230 and admission into the Sign Language Interpretation Program and instructor permission.

ITP 241. Deaf Culture I. 4 Credits.
Analyzes the history and culture of Deaf people. Examines the influence of geography, culture, attitudes, and economics on the education, employment, and legislation related to Deaf people. Prerequisite: Admission into Sign Language Interpretation program and department permission required.

ITP 242. Deaf Culture II. 2 Credits.
Analyzes advanced concepts in cultural, gender, and sociological studies in the Deaf community, including current topics in dual- and multiple-minority perspectives, discussion of the Deaf-Blind experience, and advocacy and political action relating to modern Deaf issues. Course is taught in ASL with no interpretation. Prerequisite: ITP 241 and admission into Sign Language Interpretation program and department permission required.

ITP 255. Interpreting Theory I: Foundations and Ethics. 3 Credits.
Introduces the foundations of the profession of sign language interpretation. Includes the role and function of the interpreter, the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Code of Professional Conduct, basics of ethics, professionalism, the history of the profession, and the basic theories and practices of interpretation. Prerequisite: Admission into Sign Language Interpretation Program or department permission.

ITP 266. Interpreting Theory II: Special Settings. 3 Credits.
Covers special interpreting settings and practices, including deaf-blind, VRS/VRI, religious, performing arts, medical, mental health and legal. Outlines qualifications necessary for working in each specific setting. Includes continued development of current ethical and professional issues in the field. Prerequisites: ITP 265.

ITP 267. Interpreting Theory III: K-12 Settings. 3 Credits.
Explores the role and functions of interpreters in educational settings. Includes roles and responsibilities of interpreters and other members of the educational team, professionalism, qualifications, expectations of K-12 interpreters, characteristics of Deaf learners, theories of language acquisition, legislation, and technology. Includes concepts necessary for preparation for the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment knowledge examination. Prerequisites: ITP 266.

ITP 268. Interpreting Theory IV: Business Practices. 2 Credits.
Covers current business practices, marketing, networking, and resources at national, state, and local levels. Includes development of a business plan, resume, portfolio, certification plan, and other tools for beginning one's career as a professional sign language interpreter. Prerequisites: ITP 267.

ITP 270. Interpreting Process I: Foundations. 6 Credits.
Introduces the fundamentals of the interpreting process, beginning with theories of discourse and language analysis while analyzing "dynamic equivalency" between source and target languages. Covers the application of principles of message analysis to translation from ASL to English and English to ASL. Prerequisite: Admission to the Sign Language Interpretation Program and department permission.

ITP 271. Interpreting Process II: Consecutive Interpreting. 4 Credits.
Introduces consecutive interpretation from ASL to English and from English to ASL. Prerequisite: ITP 270 and admission to the Sign Language Interpretation program and department permission required.

ITP 272. Interpreting Process III: Simultaneous Interpreting. 4 Credits.
Introduces simultaneous interpretation from ASL to English and from English to ASL. Prerequisite: ITP 271 and admission to the Sign Language Interpretation program and department permission required.

ITP 273. Interpreting Process IV: Interpreting in Special Settings. 4 Credits.
Explores interpreting in special settings. Increases simultaneous ASL to English and English to ASL interpreting skills. Focuses on individual areas of needed skill development. Prerequisites: ITP 272 and admission to the Sign Language Interpretation program and department permission required.

ITP 274. Interpreting Process V: Educational Interpreting. 4 Credits.
Explores interpreting in educational settings. Focuses on simultaneous ASL to English and English to ASL interpreting skills and introduces transliteration skills. Focuses on individual areas of needed skill development. Prerequisite: ITP 273 and admission to the Sign Language program and department permission required.

ITP 275. Interpreting Process VI: Interpreting for Children. 4 Credits.
Explores interpreting for children. Develops interpreting skills specific to working with children in K-12 education. Explores content and activities in K-12 education and adaptation of communication to children's language and cognitive abilities. Includes informal assessment of children's language use and tutoring goals and strategies. Analyzes classrooms for interpretability and explores advanced concepts in cultural, gender, and sociological studies in the Deaf community, including current topics in dual- and multiple-minority perspectives, discussion of the Deaf-Blind experience, and advocacy and political action relating to modern Deaf issues. Course is taught in ASL with no interpretation. Prerequisite: ITP 241 and admission into Sign Language Interpretation program and department permission required.
ITP 276. ASL Interpreting I. 3 Credits.
Introduces processing skills needed to interpret specialized topics. Covers how to incorporate different ASL semantic features into interpreting for clear messages from English to ASL in ASL. Prerequisite: Admission into Sign Language Interpretation Program and department permission required.

ITP 277. ASL Interpreting II. 3 Credits.
Focuses on advanced ASL syntax, interactive interpretation and analysis of message equivalency in ASL. Explores a wide range of topics incorporating the ASL skills in one’s interpreting work. Builds upon information and skills learned in ITP 276. Prerequisites: ITP 276 and admission to Sign Language Interpretation Program and department permission required.

ITP 279. Mock Interpreting I. 2 Credits.
Covers interpreting in teams for live presenters in class. Requires the application of knowledge of the interpreting process, message analysis, and ethical considerations while interpreting. Prerequisite: ITP 270. Corequisite: ITP 272.

ITP 281. Mock Interpreting II. 2 Credits.
Provides an opportunity to practice interpreting in a classroom setting where interpreting services are not needed. Develops simultaneousinterpreting skills and stamina. Prerequisite: ITP 271. Corequisite: ITP 273.

ITP 283. Interpreting Internship I. 3.5 Credits.
Provides an opportunity to apply interpreting skills in college classrooms or community settings to gain practical experience assuming the role of a professional interpreter in a structured setting with on-going feedback from professional interpreters acting as mentors. Requires: A qualifying score on the benchmark assessment in the term prior to enrollment. Prerequisites: Department permission required.

ITP 284. Interpreting Internship II. 3.5 Credits.
Provides an opportunity to apply interpreting skills in a K-12 educational setting or Video Relay Services to gain practical experience as an educational interpreter. Includes placement within a structured setting and with ongoing feedback from professional educational interpreters acting as mentors. Prerequisites: ITP 283 or a qualifying score on the Benchmark Assessment and department permission required.

ITP 285. Deaf Studies Internship. 3.5 Credits.
Provides an opportunity to gain practical experience working under the supervision of onsite mentors in an agency that serves deaf people. Requires: fifth term standing in the Sign Language Interpretation Program or Deaf Studies Program and completion of a Deaf Studies Internship Plan. Prerequisites: Department permission required.