

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE STUDIES

pcc.edu/programs/asl-studies/

DESCRIPTION

American Sign Language (ASL) is the language used by Deaf people in the United States and parts of Canada.

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 ASL/English Interpreting and the ASL/English Interpreting Admissions Page.

PCC offers a one-year certificate in Deaf Cultural Studies. The prerequisites for both the Deaf Cultural Studies certificate and the ASL/English 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 can 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.