

DEAF COMMUNICATION STUDIES: AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE - CS

Certificate of Specialization| 24 credit hours minimum

Area of Interest: Communications, Design, and Creative Arts

Program Website (<https://stlcc.edu/programs-academics/pathways/a-d-h-c/deaf-communications-studies-asl/>)

Academic Advising (<https://stlcc.edu/admissions/advising/>)

Program Description:

The Certificate of Specialization in Deaf Communication Studies: American Sign Language teaches introductory and intermediate American Sign Language (ASL), the native, indigenous language of the North American Deaf community. Graduates of the ASL Certificate program will be able to carry on extended conversations in ASL on everyday topics, choose conceptually accurate signs to express their thoughts, articulate the signs correctly, order the signs into ASL sentence patterns, and receptively comprehend ASL at an equivalent level. The ASL Certificate is ideal for hearing people who have Deaf family members, friends, or co-workers, for those who serve Deaf clients, for Deaf individuals who want to learn to communicate in sign language, and for students who need to learn ASL before enrolling in the Interpreter Education Program.

Locations. This program is offered in its entirety at Florissant Valley and Wildwood.

Related Programs. The Deaf Communication Studies Department offers an associate in the following area:

Deaf Communication Studies: Interpreter Education, Associate in Applied Science (<http://catalog.stlcc.edu/programs/deaf-communication-studies-interpreter-aas/>)

Cost of Attendance. For more information on cost of attendance visit MoSCORES (<https://scorecard.mo.gov/Search/>).

Program Career and Salary Information. Pursuant to Missouri HB 1606 (2018), information regarding the number of credit hours, program length, employment rate, wage data, and graduates employed in careers related to their program of study at St. Louis Community College can be found at the following URL: <https://scorecard.mo.gov/scorecard/> (https://www.google.com/url?q=https://scorecard.mo.gov/scorecard/&sa=D&ust=1555536894857000&usg=AFQjCNG1xf3E_j2lO96zEytILO-s5xaJCQ). Search using School / Program “St. Louis Community College” and choose the degree or credential type of interest.

The following limitations to the data apply: Information provided is based on the most recent cohorts available. Typically, most recent cohorts for wage and completion data are six years prior to the current academic year. Time to complete a program of study varies depending on the number of credit hours students earn per semester.

Interested in this program? Start the enrollment process by visiting the **Apply to STLCC** (<https://www.stlcc.edu/admissions/apply-to-stlcc/>) page.

At the completion of the program, students are expected to:

1. converse for five to ten minutes on everyday topics such as introductions, self-care, home, family, daily schedules and activities, interests, and simple stories.
2. incorporate conceptually accurate intermediate ASL vocabulary including classifiers and idioms, spatialization, directional verbs, and role shifting to convey their thoughts.
3. articulate signs on the hands, face, and body.
4. construct a variety of ASL sentence types.
5. demonstrate receptive and expressive fingerspelling.
6. employ the standard basic terminology of ASL linguistics.
7. demonstrate basic knowledge of the US Deaf community including origins of ASL, Deaf education, assistive technology, Deaf communication modes, and issues in Deafness.

Program of Study

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Program Requirements		
DCS 104	American Sign Language I (MOTR LANG 105)	4
DCS 105	American Sign Language II (MOTR LANG 106)	4
DCS 107	Fingerspelling and Numbers	3
DCS 108	The Interpreting Profession	2
DCS 111	American Sign Language Linguistics	3
DCS 115	Introduction to Deaf Culture	3
DCS 116	American Sign Language Semantics	3
DCS 124	Concept Associations in American Sign Language	2
Total Credit Hours		24

Full-Time Academic Plan

PLEASE NOTE: If you originally enrolled at STLCC prior to Fall 2025, you may need to view an **archived catalog** (<http://catalog.stlcc.edu/archived-catalogs/>) for your correct program requirements. Please speak with an advisor or the program coordinator for more information.

Code	Title	Hours	Prerequisites	Milestones/Notes
First Year				
Fall				
DCS 104	American Sign Language I (MOTR LANG 105)	4	Reading Proficiency	Exploratory Course, Gateway Course, Critical Course

DCS 111	American Sign Language Linguistics	3	Concurrent or prior enrollment in DCS 104 with a minimum grade of "C" and Reading Proficiency	
DCS 115	Introduction to Deaf Culture	3	Reading Proficiency	Exploratory Course
DCS 124	Concept Associations in American Sign Language	2	Concurrent or prior enrollment in DCS 104 with a minimum grade of "C" and Reading Proficiency	
	Credit Hours	12		
Spring				
DCS 105	American Sign Language II (MOTR LANG 106)	4	DCS 104 with a minimum grade of "C" and Reading Proficiency	
DCS 107	Fingerspelling and Numbers	3	DCS 104 with a minimum grade of "C" and Reading Proficiency	
DCS 108	The Interpreting Profession	2	Reading Proficiency	
DCS 116	American Sign Language Semantics	3	Concurrent or prior enrollment in DCS 105 with a minimum grade of "C" and Reading Proficiency	
	Credit Hours	12		
	Total Credit Hours	24		

Critical Courses: Critical courses are most important to a student's declared major and most strongly predict later success in the major. A critical course requires a minimal grade to progress to higher-level courses.

Gateway Courses: Gateway courses are courses in many career pathways that must be completed before progression in higher-level courses. These may be the same as critical and/or exploratory courses.

Exploratory Courses: Exploratory courses are first-semester courses that introduce the program and career field.

*Click on the hyperlinked course number to view additional information about the course.

**Students completing a course that has been assigned a MOTR number may transfer that course to any public institution in Missouri. Those who complete CORE 42 requirements will have that verification on their transcript.

*** It is your responsibility to verify that the courses listed above will transfer to the four-year institution of your choice. Maximize your transfer credits/classes by meeting with an academic advisor.