FAQS: AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL) MINOR

ASLIS WEBSITE: http://www.unco.edu/cebs/asl-interpreting/

WHY SHOULD I PURSUE THE ASL MINOR?
Learning a second language can be personally fulfilling and it makes you more attractive to prospective employers. By establishing fluency in ASL, you would be able to communicate with Deaf and hard of hearing people who use ASL, which can be useful in almost any people-oriented profession such as nursing, business retail, education, human services, counseling, and so forth. Not only that but a minor can fulfill UNC requirements for a number of majors – talk with your program advisor about that.

CAN I BECOME AN INTERPRETER AFTER COMPLETING THE ASL MINOR?
No, interpreting is a complex task that requires not only fluency in two languages/cultures, but many more knowledge and skills sets. It also requires a national exam to be qualified to work as an ASL-English interpreter. The ASL Minor will provide a good language foundation, but it is inadequate to become an effective interpreter. However, should this be a goal of yours, you can apply to the ASLEI Program at UNC and credits from the ASL Minor can be applied towards that major.

WHAT COURSES ARE REQUIRED FOR THE ASL MINOR?
The ASL Minor is comprised of six courses in American Sign Language and three knowledge courses about Deaf culture, communication and education. These courses would be ASL I, II, III, IV, V, & VI, and two of the three knowledge courses: ASL 310: Deaf Culture & Community, INTR 312: Intercultural Communication (between deaf and non-deaf individuals), and/or EDSE 550: Foundations of Deaf Education.

HOW MANY CREDITS DO I NEED TO COMPLETE THE MINOR?
The ASL Minor has variable credit, ranging from 18-24 credits, depending on where you start in the ASL course sequence. Once you have a UNC declared major you can start the minor anywhere from ASL I to ASL III and be able to finish the requirements for the minor. However, regardless of the sequence, ASL IV, V, & VI and at least six credits of electives (two courses of the following – ASL 310, INTR 312, or EDSE 550) are required of everyone. Retro credit of previous ASL I-IV coursework may be available – check with the Department directly. (Remember, you cannot start at ASL IV until you’ve met the pre-requisites of ASL I – III).

HOW IS THE ASL MINOR DELIVERED?
The ASL Minor is offered as traditional campus-based classes in Greeley or delivered online. Two courses – ASL I & II – are NOT offered online, but you can take these courses from another institution and transfer them to UNC if you want to pursue the online ASL Minor.

WHY AREN’T ASL I & ASL II OFFERED ONLINE?
A strong foundation in ASL is paramount to the success of your learning ASL online which, in our opinion, can best be achieved by taking ASL I & II in the classroom where you will pick up the nuances of the language through lots of language interactions and activities.

CAN I TAKE COURSEWORK BOTH ONLINE AND ON CAMPUS?
No. You need to select one delivery option or the other. This provides continuity to the minor so that it can best support you as a student in the minor.

IS THE COURSEWORK DIFFERENT ONLINE THAN ON CAMPUS?
No, the delivery option and staffing may be different, but the curriculum and outcomes of coursework and minor requirements are the same for both delivery options.

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HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE FOR ME TO COMPLETE THE MINOR?
This depends on where you start in the ASL sequence. If you start at ASL I, you can complete the minor in three years. If you start at ASL IV, you can complete it in as short as three semesters.

DO I NEED TO TAKE THE ASL COURSES IN SEQUENCE?
Yes, all ASL courses must be taken in sequence. Only the knowledge courses (ASL 310, INTR 312, & EDSE 550) can be taken out of sequence; however, they cannot be taken until you’ve completed ASL IV.

HOW DO I KNOW WHERE I AM IN THE ASL SEQUENCE?
If you have never taken ASL before, you would start at ASL I. If you have completed ASL coursework at another post-secondary institution, check with the Registrar to see if your classes will transfer. If you have taken ASL in high school or learned ASL through life experiences, contact Leilani Johnson (leilani.johnson@unco.edu) to request a placement screening.

CAN I TAKE MORE THAN ONE ASL COURSE AT A TIME?
No. The language courses (ASL I-VI) must be taken in sequence. The knowledge courses (ASL 310, INTR 312, & EDSE 550) can be taken simultaneously with ASL V and ASL VI.

WHO TEACHES THE ASL MINOR?
Qualified Deaf instructors who use ASL as their primary language will be teaching the ASL courses. All of the ASL courses are taught in American Sign Language. There may be a portion of a course or even the full class in the minor where professional sign language interpreters will be brought in to interpret into spoken English. The knowledge courses are taught by qualified ASLIS and CEBS faculty who are engaged in the Deaf Community.

WHAT DO I DO IF THE CLASSES ARE FULL?
There are a number of ASL sections available during the fall and spring semester. For instance, there are approximately 20 ASL sections available each semester year. These are popular courses, therefore you are encouraged to register at the earliest opportunity. However, if the section you want for ASL I or ASL IV classes is full, you can contact the Registrar to get on the wait list.

DO I NEED TO BE A UNC STUDENT TO COMPLETE THE MINOR?
Yes, and you must have a UNC declared major. However, you are welcome to take ASL I-IV as standalone courses that can meet UNC liberal art requirements or meet the requirements of another institution as long as you meet the pre-requisites of the courses.

DO I NEED TO DECLARE THE ASL MINOR?
Yes, you do. The process is through the application system when you first apply to UNC Admissions or through the Registrar Office after you become a UNC student. To add or change the minor you will need to complete the Change of Major/Minor form. Be aware that if your major was declared prior to the catalog year that you are declaring the minor, your current major will move under the most current catalog; potentially changing the requirements of your major. Be sure to discuss your decision to add or change your minor with your advisor.

WILL I HAVE AN ADVISOR?
Yes, a minor advisor will be appointed; however, you will continue to work with your major advisor for all other coursework outside of the minor. Your major advisor is also the person to assign you your registration PIN each semester.

WHAT ARE THE GPA REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR?
In order to be an ASL minor you must have achieved a ‘B’ or better grade in previous ASL classes and maintain a ‘B’ or better grade in all minor coursework.

ARE THE TUITION COSTS DIFFERENT FOR ONLINE AND ON CAMPUS DELIVERY OPTIONS?
Yes, the costs are different. Online coursework is the same tuition rate for both in-state and out-of-state students. It is calculated at about 150% of the in-state tuition rate regardless of where you live. For online tuition rates visit the UNC financial aid website. On campus tuition is determined by the state and institution based on in-state or out-of-state student status. For current tuition rates for on campus visit the UNC financial aid website. Scroll down to find your program.

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