

## **American Sign Language (ASL)**

*The Requirement*—As part of The College of New Jersey’s liberal learning program all degree candidates in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences are required to show proficiency in a foreign language unless exempted. Students in the Schools of the Arts and Communication, Science, and Business should consult with their advisor or assistant dean about language requirements for individual programs of study. All Deaf Education majors are required to show proficiency in American Sign Language (ASL). Satisfactory evidence of proficiency is completion of the 103 level of language study (equivalent to three semesters). While most students opt to continue in the foreign language previously studied, they may begin study of a new foreign language.

*Placement*—Students who choose to begin the study of American Sign Language as a new foreign language should enroll at the 101 level. All students who wish to continue studying ASL based on courses taken at another institution must take the TCNJ ASL Placement Test for placement in the appropriate course level. Native users of ASL must also take the placement test. The TCNJ ASL Placement Test is offered two times per year. It is an in-person interview which requires that an appointment be made for the test. Dates for the ASL Placement Test are announced at <http://specialeducation.pages.tcnj.edu/programs/american-sign-language/>

*Exemption*—Students may be exempted from ASL if they show sufficient proficiency in the language as certified by a score of “Intermediate” or higher on the SLPI.

*Transfer Credit*—TCNJ students will not be able to take any 100-level courses in American Sign Language outside of the Special Education Department of The College of New Jersey. Special consideration will be given to transfer students who have fulfilled part of their languages requirements at another institution. Transfer students who have successfully completed three semesters of a language or the equivalent in any accredited college or university will receive exemption from the foreign language requirement. Students who have taken fewer than three semesters of language in college and who must meet a language requirement or wish to continue their language studies are required to take the TCNJ ASL Placement Test to determine the appropriate level for the next course. Deaf Education majors are advised that they must take the ASL Placement Test even if they have completed three semesters of ASL study at an accredited college or university. This is to ensure that they are well prepared to take the State-mandated sign proficiency assessment required for teaching certification and for the demands of using ASL in practicum placements.