

American Sign Language (ASL)

The Requirement—As part of The College of New Jersey’s college core 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. Information about the placement test may be found at the [ASL program](#) site.

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.

Honors ASL Sections—An honors section of ASL 101, 102, and 103 is offered once per academic year. These sections are available to students enrolled in the TCNJ Honors Program, Elementary Education of the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Program, and the Early Childhood Education of the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Program. Students that meet this requirement but are unable to take the appropriate level honors section due to scheduling conflicts may opt to take a standard section of ASL at the same level. When this occurs, these students are permitted to take subsequent honors sections of ASL courses if they choose. If a student taking an honors section of ASL changes to a major or program that does not meet the above criterion, they are not permitted to take subsequent honors sections of ASL.