

## HOW WILL THIS HELP ME WITH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES?

Many employers consider not only what a student has studied, but how many classes they have taken in that area. Students who complete this focus area have 18 credit hours in a specialized field.

Learning a second language takes practice and dedication. After completing the four language courses (ASL I - IV), and the advanced Fingerspelling and Numbers course (ITP 210), students should have strong basic communication skills in ASL. They will also have a good understanding of who and what make up the Deaf Community.

Having good basic communication skills in ASL would be beneficial in many degree programs, including but not limited to Allied Health, Behavioral Sciences, HLSS (History, Languages and Social Sciences), Nursing, and Business.

## WHERE CAN I GO TO LEARN MORE?

Professional interpreters for the Deaf are in great demand. Students who complete this focus area may be interested in continuing their studies and becoming a certified interpreter. The State of Kentucky also requires sign language interpreters to be licensed. The following agencies are good sources of information.

- Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID)  
Rid.org
- National Association of the Deaf (NAD)  
Nad.org
- Kentucky Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH)  
Kcdhh.org
- Kentucky Board of Interpreters for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (licensing board)  
Ky.gov/ourcabinet/caboff/oas/op/interpret



Applications and class schedules are on the web: [www.bluegrass.kctcs.edu](http://www.bluegrass.kctcs.edu)

College Accreditation  
Bluegrass Community and Technical College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; telephone 404.679.4501 to award associate degrees.

BCTC is an equal opportunity institution.



## EARN A FOCUS AREA IN ASL STUDIES



ENHANCE YOUR DEGREE WITH A FOCUS AREA IN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE



KENTUCKY COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

## ABOUT ASL

American Sign Language (ASL) is offered for foreign language credit at hundreds of colleges and universities across the country. ASL is comparable in complexity and expressiveness to spoken languages. It is NOT a form of English. It has its own distinct grammatical structure, and differs from spoken language in that it is visual rather than auditory. ASL is capable of conveying subtle, complex and abstract ideas. Signers can discuss anything in ASL that could be discussed in English, from philosophy, politics and literature, to humor, poetry and sports.

## WHAT IS A “FOCUS AREA IN ASL?”

BCTC offers six courses in ASL and Deaf Culture (see next page for a listing of courses). Once all six courses are completed, a student will have earned this designation. A focus area is much like a concentration area. It is NOT a minor and DOES NOT imply mastery of the language. It DOES indicate a deeper level of study in ASL and Deaf Culture, which is appealing to many employers.

## WHAT COURSES DO I NEED TO TAKE?

To complete the focus area and earn this designation, students must complete the courses listed below. This outline suggests how to take the courses so that they can be completed in two years. Students can begin the focus area any fall semester.

### 1st Fall Semester

- ASL I (ASL101)

### 1st Spring Semester

- ASL II (ASL102)

### 2nd Fall Semester

- ASL III (ASL201)
- ITP 115 (Deaf Culture)

### 2nd Spring Semester

- ASL IV (ASL202)
- ITP210 (Fingerspelling & Numbers)

ASL courses must be taken in order. Students must complete ASL I and ASL II before taking ITP115 or ITP210. ASL I, ASL III, and ITP115 are ONLY offered in fall semesters. ASL II, ASL IV, and ITP210 are ONLY offered spring semesters.

## WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

The “Focus Area in ASL Studies” falls under the department of History, Languages, and Social Sciences (HLSS). The following are contacts for more information.

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