Deaf Studies Program
Information for Applicants

Thank you for your interest in the Deaf Studies Program offered at Northern Essex Community College. Program options are as follows:

1. **Associate in Arts, Deaf Studies**
2. **Associate in Arts, Deaf Studies: Interpreting Transfer**
3. **Deaf Studies Certificate**

1. **The Deaf Studies Option** provides students with a broad introduction to American Sign Language and linguistics, Deaf culture, Deaf history and Deaf literature. Graduates of this option typically continue their education at other post-secondary institutions or else gain entry-level employment in agencies serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. See course sequence on page 5.

2. **The Interpreting Transfer Option** gives students a pre-interpreting foundation that can transfer to 4-year interpreting programs. This option gives students a foundation in American Sign Language and linguistics, Deaf culture, Deaf history and Deaf literature, as well as an introduction to the interpreting field. See course sequence on page 6.

3. **The Deaf Studies Certificate** is available to students already holding a baccalaureate degree or higher. The certificate is designed to provide students with a foundation in American Sign Language and Deaf culture and an opportunity to explore careers in the Deaf/Hard of Hearing/Deaf-Blind community. See course sequence on page 7.

Enrollment into the Deaf Studies program occurs in the fall semester only.

*In order to qualify for any of the program options, all applicants must have completed ASL 101 and 102 at NECC with a grade of B or better, or pass an ASL assessment demonstrating that they qualify to enroll in*
Intermediate ASL I. All students who have taken ASL courses outside of NECC or acquired ASL in family must take the ASL assessment.

Admission Requirements & Documentation Checklist

All applicants must complete the following items to be considered for acceptance into either program option.

☐ 1. Attendance at a Deaf Studies Information Session. Email deafstudies@necc.mass.edu to register.

☐ 2. Application for admission to NECC. Email admissions@necc.mass.edu This step requires an official high school transcript/diploma (even for applicants with college degrees) or GED scores/certificate.

☐ 3. Submission of official college transcripts to the Registrar from the colleges you have previously attended, if applicable.

☐ 4. Completion of ASL 101 and ASL 102 with a grade of B or better OR completion of an ASL proficiency assessment. There is no charge for the assessment. Email deafstudies@necc.mass.edu to be put on a waiting list for the next available assessment. Students wishing to enter in the fall must complete their assessments by end of May.

☐ 5. Completion of the Academic Skills Assessment in reading, writing and mathematics (this does not apply to certificate students). Applicants must demonstrate the ability to enter English Composition I. For more info, go to http://www.necc.mass.edu/academics/testing/. It is possible to be waived from the reading/writing/math assessments if you have successfully completed specific college course(s). Such waivers are determined by Student Services after your college transcripts have been reviewed.

☐ 6. Completion of English Comp I (this course is a prerequisite to Introduction to Deaf Studies which is offered in the first semester of the program).
Once all of the above requirements have been completed, applicants meet with the program coordinator to:

- Complete program enrollment
- Register for classes
- Discuss initial practicum placement

**Other Information**

- **Transfer credits:**
  Transfer credits from other institution(s) are awarded only for comparable courses which are completed with a grade of C or better. Transfer credits for Deaf Studies and American Sign Language courses taken elsewhere will be reviewed by the program coordinator. In order to determine transferability, applicants may be asked to submit a summary of each American Sign Language or Deaf Studies course previously taken, including: a) title of each course, b) course description as it appears in the course catalogue, c) number of credit hours earned and number of classroom hours per week, d) the name of instructor, and e) the title of text books used for each course.

- **Health requirements:**
  Information regarding health requirements will be sent to you by Student Records, upon acceptance.

- **Transportation:**
  Students must have reliable transportation for travel to and from practicum sites.
• Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) and Sex Offender Record Information (SORI) checks:

Students participating in an academic program which involves working with: 1) children, 2) people with disabilities, 3) senior citizens, or students who are registered in a cooperative education experience or in a program that includes a clinical affiliation with a private or public health care provider, will be required to undergo a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check, a Criminal Records Central Repository (CHRI) check and/or a Sex Offender Registry Information (SORI) check.

Students will need to provide a government issued photo identification and sign a release form allowing the college to view the student’s CORI, CHRI or SORI reports. **Depending on the contents of a student’s CORI, CHRI or SORI reports, participation in an academic program, a cooperative education experience or a clinical or practicum affiliation related thereto, may be denied.** CORI checks may be performed pursuant to Mass. General Laws, Chapter 6, Section 172, and consistent with guidelines promulgated by the Executive Office for Health and Human Services, and/or the Commonwealth’s Dept. of Public Health. SORI checks may be performed pursuant to Mass. General Laws, Chapter 6, Sections 178(J) & 178(K). CHRI checks may be performed pursuant to New Hampshire law. For more information, contact admissions@necc.mass.edu

• Video Recording Equipment:

The ASL and interpreting courses require that students record their assignments on video. Students should be equipped with, or have access to, video recording equipment within their first week in the program.
Associate Degree: Deaf Studies
Recommended Course Sequence

Year 1, Fall Semester

Intermediate ASL I
Introduction to Deaf Studies
Deaf Community Practicum
English Composition II
Math elective

Year 1, Spring Semester

Intermediate ASL II
ASL Linguistics
Cultural Anthropology
Science elective
Government or History Elective

Year 2, Fall Semester

Advanced ASL I
Deaf Culture
Science elective
Free elective

Year 2, Spring Semester

Advanced ASL II
Deaf Literature and ASL Folklore
Intro to the Interpreting Field/Intro to Teaching/ Intro to Human Services
Free elective
Associate Degree: Interpreting Transfer
Recommended Course Sequence

Year 1, Fall Semester

Intermediate ASL I
Introduction to Deaf Studies
Deaf Community Practicum
English Composition II
Math elective

Year 1, Spring Semester

Intermediate ASL II
ASL Linguistics
Cultural Anthropology
Government or History elective *students work with their advisors to select courses that will satisfy the general education courses required by the 4-yr institution to which they intend to transfer*

Year 2, Fall Semester

Advanced ASL I
Deaf Culture
Science elective
Ethics
Free elective *students work with their advisors to select courses that will satisfy the general education courses required by the 4-yr institution to which they intend to transfer*

Year 2, Spring Semester

Advanced ASL II
Deaf Literature and ASL Folklore
Introduction to the Interpreting Field
Science Elective

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Deaf Studies Certificate
Course Sequence

Year 1, Fall Semester

Intermediate ASL I
Introduction to Deaf Studies
Deaf Community Practicum

Year 1, Spring Semester

Intermediate ASL II
ASL Linguistics
Cultural Anthropology

Year 2, Fall Semester

Advanced ASL I
Deaf Culture
Ethics

Year 2, Spring Semester

Advanced ASL II
Deaf Literature and ASL Folklore
Introduction to the Interpreting Field