

American Sign Language Level I Course Overview

Fall Semester



Unit 1: What Makes Me Unique?

Exploring identity helps us understand ourselves and connect with others. Students learn to share basic personal information, describe their traits and interests, and recognize similarities and differences with peers and members of the Deaf community. Through these conversations, they begin building confidence in expressing who they are in ASL.



Unit 2: What Makes My School Special?

Schools reflect shared routines and individual communities. Students learn to describe their classes, teachers, schedules, and activities while comparing them with Deaf programs. This helps them recognize what makes their own school unique and appreciate different approaches to learning and community life.



Unit 3: How Are We Connected to Others?

Family shapes who we are and how we connect with others. Students learn to describe family members and pets, share basic information, and discuss activities they do together. By exploring family life in Deaf culture, they discover both the diversity and universality of family experiences.

Spring Semester



Unit 4: What Makes a Place Feel Like Home?

A home is more than a building—it is defined by its spaces, routines, and the people who share them. Students explore types of homes, daily routines, and household responsibilities to describe how people organize life and express values using ASL. They also examine how homes for Deaf individuals may differ from those for hearing individuals, considering adaptations, accessibility, and communication needs.



Unit 5: How Do Changes in Weather Impact Me?

Weather and seasons affect our daily routines, activities, and choices. Students learn to describe weather conditions in ASL, talk about clothing and activities that match the weather, and express how changes in weather impact their lives. This helps them connect language to the real-world and communicate about everyday experiences in meaningful ways.



Unit 6: How do I Express Myself Through Storytelling?

Storytelling is a central part of Deaf culture and a powerful way to share experiences, values, and identity. Through exploring ASL narratives, folktales, and personal stories, students learn how storytelling connects people, preserves culture, and celebrates creativity. By practicing and creating their own stories, students discover how to express themselves more fully while gaining a deeper appreciation for the role storytelling plays in uniting and strengthening communities.