

Camosun College  
Continuing Education

# American Sign Language Program

ASL Prep Level Certificate  
ASL Basic Level Certificate



VICTORIA

| BRITISH COLUMBIA

| CANADA

*October 2014*

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## Information Session

It is strongly recommended you attend a FREE information session, registration required. Please check [camosun.ca/ce](http://camosun.ca/ce) for the most up-to-date information.

If you are reapplying for the program and/or have not attended an Information Session in more than one year, please attend a more recent Information Session to receive the current program information.

*Camosun College reserves the right to modify or cancel any program, course, timetable or objective without notice.*

# American Sign Language

Camosun's certificate program consists of two levels of American Sign Language. Students may earn two credentials, ASL Prep and ASL Basic, if they complete all courses. These provide complementary credentials for people who work with individuals who are Deaf or hearing impaired, or have developmental disabilities, such as Community Support Workers, Educational Assistants, Child and Youth Care Workers, Early Childhood Educators, and health care or legal workers. This comprehensive program follows current provincial guidelines for American Sign Language at the post-secondary level. Courses are taught by immersion by an instructor who is Deaf, and all communication is visual American Sign Language (ASL).

The **ASL Prep Level** is oriented to individuals who have little or no knowledge of American Sign Language. The focus is on developing a beginning vocabulary and developing basic skills to communicate personal and family information. Students who successfully complete this level will gain limited conversation and information-sharing skills, useful in communicating with friends, neighbours, family members, and/or co-workers.

The **ASL Basic Level** program builds on skills acquired at the Prep Level, and strengthens skills in conversation, asking clarifying questions, phrasing, use of classifiers, and building knowledge of linguistic functions and grammatical features. Students who complete this level will gain an understanding of Deaf culture and basic skills to communicate and support work with individuals who are Deaf or hearing impaired.

The program also supports students who wish to attend simply out of interest in learning sign language. You are not required to seek either credential in order to attend classes.

## About the Instructor



Denise Read is a bilingual French Canadian. Born Deaf, Denise earned a Bachelor of Arts at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. She earned a second degree as well as her Deaf teaching certificate at the University of Ottawa. She has taught the LSQ (Quebec Sign Language) and ASL classes more than 20 years and co-founded American Sign Language of Montreal, where she served as director for 12 years. Denise's passion for drama and performing arts translates to her being a dynamic and engaging ASL instructor. Denise has been teaching at Camosun since 2012.

### Why Camosun students love learning ASL from Denise:

- *"Best prof I have had in my many years at Camosun."*
- *"I love being in Denise's class. She takes immersion learning to a whole new level."*
- *"It was fun and challenging and also helped me see the world in a different light."*

# Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the American Sign Language, you the graduate, will be able to:

## **Program Learning Outcomes – Prep Level**

1. Develop a beginning vocabulary and skills in American Sign Language to communicate personal and family information
2. Build conversation and information-sharing skills in American Sign Language, useful in communicating with friends, neighbours, family members and/or co-workers
3. Increase personal awareness of the Deaf culture
4. Demonstrate mastery of Prep Level skills

## **Program Learning Outcomes – Basic Level**

1. Demonstrate skill in gaining and maintaining visual attention, controlling pace of conversation, confirming information, and using possessive forms correctly in American Sign Language
2. Demonstrate skill in asking and giving longer responses to questions, incorporating linguistic and grammatical features learned in American Sign Language
3. Apply descriptive and locative classifiers and facial grammatical and effective markers in American Sign Language
4. Demonstrate mastery of Basic Level skills

# Course Descriptions

## **American Sign Language Prep 1**

This course provides an introduction to American Sign Language (ASL) for individuals who have little or no knowledge of the language. Based on principles of second-language acquisition, students learn to recognize various visual grammatical features of the language and develop beginning-level vocabulary. This includes basic introductions, exchange of personal information and to talk about their surroundings. In addition, students learn how to form questions and give basic directions. They also gain an understanding of the Deaf community, the impact of handedness on signing and the use of visual three-dimensional space in ASL.

## **Learning Outcomes**

At the end of the course the student will be able to:

1. Ask for the name of others and give their name when asked;
2. Comprehend short or familiar fingerspelled names;
3. Use simple techniques to confirm and/or correct information given in a dialogue (positive head nod, negative headshake, wave-no);
4. Ask and/or respond to question regarding: whether individual is Deaf/hearing, where one is learning Sign Language, where things are in the immediate environment;
5. Respond to information given using “oh-I-See,” positive head nod, and other appropriate simple visual interactive behaviours;
6. Express simple personal needs related to immediate time and environment.

## **American Sign Language Prep 2**

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Building on Prep I, this course provides further introduction to American Sign Language (ASL) for individuals who have little or no knowledge of the language. Students begin to discuss personal information, including where they live, family information and their various physical activities. Students begin to refine visual perception to assist with receptive skills in the language. Students are introduced to spatial referencing, contrastive structures, the expression of time and the formulation of negative statements, fingerspelling and some rules for social interaction.

### **Learning Outcomes**

At the end of the course the student will be able to:

1. Make basic introductions;
2. Ask and/or respond to simple question regarding: where things/people are, how one came to class;
3. Give and inquire about simple personal information, including marital status, family information (children/siblings);
4. Ask information regarding “how many” things/people are involved in a response;
5. Apologize and give simple reasons;
6. State simple opinions;
7. Suggest simple activities;
8. Use appropriate visual attention-getting devices and keep clear sight line;
9. Describe and negotiate immediate environment.

## **American Sign Language Prep 3**

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This course begins with a cumulative review of American Sign Language (ASL) Prep I and II, including norms for getting attention, understanding the role of name signs, negotiating a signing environment, asking for repetition, meeting others and gaining basic information about the daily lives of Deaf people. Building on Prep II, students begin to make simple requests, give directions and learn how to identify other people. Numbers are introduced and students develop a basic understanding of various types of verbs.

### **Learning Outcomes**

At the end of the course the student will be able to:

1. Ask and/or tell where something is;
2. Explains the need for information and/or for things;
3. Interrupt conversations politely according to Deaf cultural norms;
4. Confirm information by using the structure: RIGHT;
5. Express uncertainty about information being given or received;
6. Identify people present in a conversational environment by using the structure: SEE;
7. Confirm that a communication partner has correctly identified a specific person, place or thing by using the structure: THAT-ONE;
8. Correct information being given by another by using the structure: wave-no;
9. Give information regarding physical locations of places and events;
10. Give commands to others in a non-offensive manner according to Deaf cultural norms;
11. Offer assistance to others in a non-offensive manner according to Deaf cultural norms;
12. Ask for clarification of information in appropriate ways.

## **American Sign Language Prep 4**

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Using American Sign Language (ASL), students learn how to discuss families with greater detail, including occupations and ages. The concept of role shifting is introduced and applied to descriptions of others. Students begin to discuss daily routines, including clock numbers and activities. In addition, students are provided with a brief history of Deaf people in the US and Canada, learn rules for interrupting conversations and other rules for social interaction.

### **Learning Outcomes**

At the end of the course the student will be able to:

1. Explain/describe relationships between people including family and work relationships;
2. Ask/tell how long one has done/known someone/something;
3. Ask/tell what time and how old a person or object is or was at the time of specific life events;
4. Describe the physical and personal characteristics of others;
5. Describe occupations and related activities and structures;
6. Describe various daily activities using temporal sequencing, including instruments and physical settings;
7. Interrupt others, handle interruptions and solve conflicts;
8. Use appropriate attention-getting devices;
9. Confirm, qualify and contradict opinions;
10. Open and close conversations and negotiate environment.

## **ASL Prep Level Mastery Exam**

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This course is for students who have successfully completed American Sign Language (ASL) Prep Levels I-IV, providing a review before taking the ASL Prep Level Mastery Exam. Students then complete the Mastery Exam, comprised of a written exam and a video-taped demonstration of signing skills.

### **Learning Outcomes**

At the end of the course the student will be able to:

1. Review the skills and knowledge learned in the American Sign Language Prep Level courses, in preparation for the Mastery Exam.
2. Demonstrate mastery of the ASL Prep Level.

## **American Sign Language Basic 1**

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Building on American Sign Language (ASL) grammatical and linguistic skills from ASL Prep Levels I – IV, this course introduces a number of linguistic skills. Topics include: opening conversations; asking clarifying questions; making corrections; and confirming information. Grammatical focus will be placed on topic-comment structure, use of non-dominant hand for referents, and question forms.

### **Learning Outcomes**

At the end of the course the student will be able to:

1. Strengthen skills in opening conversations ;
2. Develop skills in asking questions, making corrections, and confirming information;
3. Develop understanding and correct use of grammar in topic-comment structure;
4. Develop use of non-dominant hand for referents and question forms.

## **American Sign Language Basic 2**

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Using American Sign Language (ASL), this course focuses on increasing skills including: proper phrasing and pausing; using descriptive and locative classifiers; applying the use of certain numbering systems; and using possessive forms. Instrumental classifiers are introduced, as well as money numbers and lower facial grammatical markers. Students will be expected to incorporate all linguistic and grammatical features learned.

### **Learning Outcomes**

At the end of the course the student will be able to:

1. Use descriptive and locative classifiers;
2. Apply numbering systems;
3. Use possessive forms correctly;
4. Develop beginning understanding and use of instrumental classifiers, money numbers, and lower facial grammatical markers;
5. Integrate and incorporate all linguistic and grammatical features learned to this point.

## **American Sign Language Basic 3**

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This course focuses on developing American Sign Language (ASL) skills to ask and give fairly lengthy responses to questions, incorporating linguistic and grammatical features. Students will be introduced to elements; classifiers; use of durative aspect; gaining, directing and maintaining visual attention; controlling the pace of a conversation; and confirming information appropriately.

### **Learning Outcomes**

At the end of the course the student will be able to:

1. Further develop skills in asking and giving longer responses to questions, incorporating linguistic and grammatical features learned;
2. Develop beginning knowledge and use of elements, classifiers, and the use of durative aspect;
3. Develop skill in gaining and maintaining visual attention, controlling pace of conversation, and confirming information.

## **American Sign Language Basic 4**

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Review and reinforce all American Sign Language (ASL) skills developed from Prep I – Basic III. All linguistic functions and grammatical features will be integrated into a comprehensive application to more complex monologues and dialogues. There will be particular focus on the review and use of classifiers and on facial grammatical and effective markers.

### **Learning Outcomes**

At the end of the course the student will be able to:

1. Review and integrate all skills developed in American Sign Language (ASL) Prep and Basics levels;
2. Integrate and apply linguistic functions and grammatical features in more complex monologues and dialogues;
3. Review and apply classifiers and facial grammatical and effective markers.

## ASL Basic Level Mastery Exam

This course is for students who have successfully completed American Sign Language (ASL) Basic Levels I-IV, providing a review before taking the ASL Basic Level Mastery Exam. Students then complete the Mastery Exam, comprised of a written exam and a video-taped demonstration of signing skills.

### Learning Outcomes

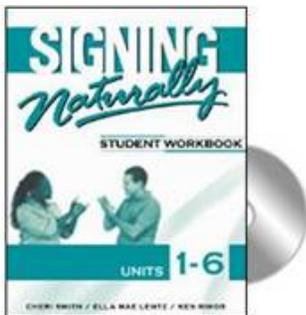
At the end of the course the student will be able to:

1. Review the skills and knowledge learned in the American Sign Language Basic Level courses, in preparation for the Mastery Exam.
2. Demonstrate mastery of the ASL Basic Level.

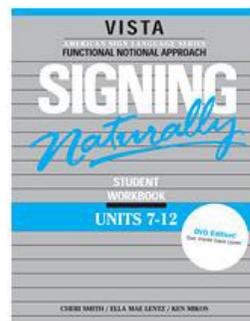
## Workbooks

Purchase workbook through the Camosun College Bookstore (Lansdowne Campus), 250-370-3080, Bookstore hours are Monday–Thursday: 8am–6pm and Friday: 8am–4pm. **Note that the Bookstore is NOT open on weekends.**

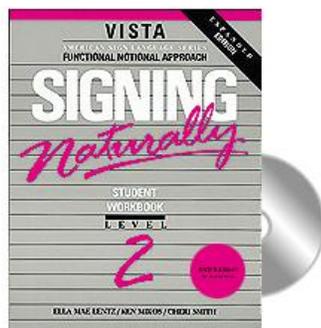
**Prep 1 and 2 - VISTA Signing Naturally**  
*Student Workbook (units 1-6)*  
Approx cost \$77



**Prep 3 and 4 - VISTA Signing Naturally**  
*Student Workbook (units 7-12)*  
Approx cost \$35



**Basic 1, 2, 3 and 4 - VISTA Signing Naturally**  
*Level 2 Student Workbook*  
Approx cost \$70



## Format and Schedule

The program is comprised of two levels of certification, each consisting of 120 hours of classroom instruction: There are four courses in the Prep level (Prep 1, 2, 3, 4, and a Mastery Exam) and four courses in the Basic level (Basic 1, 2, 3, 4, and a Mastery Exam). Students are encouraged to complete the Basic level to reach a functional use of the ASL language.

### Schedule

Classes may be offered in the evenings or on Saturdays, usually once or twice per week. We typically offer several intakes of Prep Level ASL in Fall, Winter, and Spring and one intake of Basic Level ASL in the Fall.

*Please refer to the ASL Schedule for specific dates of all American Sign Language classes.*

### Homework

Students should expect to complete weekly homework and quizzes/exams, and to allow time to practice conversational skills. The number of hours of study outside of the classroom varies, but you should expect 5-10 hours/week through the program. You will also be encouraged to attend Deaf events in the community.

## Admission Requirements

There are no admission requirements for this program. Each course is a pre-requisite for the next, so they must be completed in order.

The following are **recommended characteristics** for students who wish to study American Sign Language:

- Good command of oral and written English
- Good visual memory
- Good manual dexterity
- Ability to follow signed, oral, and written instructions
- Ability to communicate effectively with people of all ages and backgrounds
- Sensitivity to issues of 'difference' and identity
- Maturity and positive self-image with high standards of personal integrity

Students are encouraged to complete a College Application Form early in their studies to be eligible for tax deductions related to being enrolled in this credentialed program.

## What if I have prior ASL training?

You may be eligible to apply for either Transfer Credit or Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) in order to begin classes at Camosun at a higher level than Prep 1 (AMSL 501V). Please email [asl@camosun.ca](mailto:asl@camosun.ca) with a brief description of your education and experience. The Program Coordinator will contact you with further information.

- Students who have attended an ASL course from an approved institution using the VISTA curriculum within the past 3 years should refer to the Transfer Credit process.
- Students who have attended unofficial courses, such as those offered through community recreation centres and Island Deaf and Hard of Hearing, or who have attained ASL language skills through experience, should refer to the Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) process.

### **Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Process**

1. Student emails [asl@camosun.ca](mailto:asl@camosun.ca) to request PLA. Email should be initiated at least 2 weeks prior to first class, as assessment must be completed within one week of the first class.
2. ASL Program Coordinator will arrange assessment date/time with the student and assessor.
3. Student pays non-refundable fee of 50% of course tuition: currently \$147.50.
4. Student completes the assessment with the assigned assessor.
5. If PLA application is successful, the appropriate grade will be entered into Camosun's grades database and the student will be notified.
6. If student is unsuccessful, and the student wished to attend the course, the student must pay the full course fee (\$295).
7. See <http://camosun.ca/documents/priorlearning-application.pdf> for detailed information.

### **Transfer Credit Process:**

1. Complete the Transfer Credit form and enclose appropriate fee (currently \$50 for BC schools).
2. Send your official, sealed transcripts to: Transfer Credit Coordinator, Camosun College, 3100 Foul Bay Road, Victoria, BC, V8P 5J2
3. You may enrol in next scheduled course, having met the pre-requisite via transfer credit.

Please email [asl@camosun.ca](mailto:asl@camosun.ca) to enquire about eligible institutions and courses.

Please see <http://camosun.ca/services/transfer-credit.html> for detailed information.

# How to Register

**Step 1:** Please see page 9 for our checklist to see if ASL is right for you.

**Step 2:** Register in the following courses:

- ✓ in person (please note limited hours if paying in cash)
- ✓ by calling Enrolment Services 250-370-3550 using VISA or MasterCard
- ✓ online at <http://camosun.ca/ce> using VISA or MasterCard

Course Code	Course Name	Fee	Hours
AMSL 501V	Prep 1	\$295	30
AMSL 502V	Prep 2	\$295	30
AMSL 503V	Prep 3	\$295	30
AMSL 504V	Prep 4	\$295	30
AMSL 555V	Mastery Exam	\$95	arranged with instructor
AMSL 601V	Basic 1	\$295	30
AMSL 602V	Basic 2	\$295	30
AMSL 603V	Basic 3	\$295	30
AMSL 604V	Basic 4	\$295	30
AMSL 655V	Mastery Exam	\$95	arranged with instructor

## Registration policies for all ASL courses:

- American Sign Language courses must be completed in sequence.
- You may register in one at a time but please **register at least one week prior to the start date**. Seats are first come, first served. Courses may be cancelled one week prior to the start date if minimum enrollment has not been met.
- Fees are \$295 per course plus \$95 for each Mastery Exam. All are tax exempt.
- Fees are payable at the time of registration.
- A 100% refund is provided up to seven (7) calendar days prior to the start date of the course. Depending on your method of payment, a refund will either be mailed to you or credited to your credit card. No refunds are provided after this date
- Sponsored students: please use form at <http://camosun.ca/ce/register.html>

**Step 3:** Complete a College Application Form.

- You may be eligible for a tax deduction for being enrolled in a program of study.
- If you plan to continue past the first course, it is likely to your advantage to submit an application form. You will not be obligated to complete the program.
- You do not need to submit transcripts. Simply complete and submit a College Application Form to establish eligibility as a Program Student. Find the form online at <http://camosun.ca/documents/forms/apply/apply-camosun.pdf>.
- Submit your application, including the application fee (currently \$38.64), by mail or in person to:

Enrolment and Admission Services,  
Lansdowne Campus, Camosun College  
3100 Foul Bay Road  
Victoria, BC V8P 5J2

# Graduation Requirements

## Graduation Requirements (for certificate only)

Students are encouraged to complete studies within 2 years of starting the first course if a certificate is desired. In order to qualify for a credential in American Sign Language, students must achieve an **average of B-** across the four courses for each Level **and a minimum grade of B-** in each Mastery Exam. Students must successfully complete the preceding course before attending the next course in sequence.

Certificate in ASL – Prep Level:

- Prep 1 (30 hours)
- Prep 2 (30 hours)
- Prep 3 (30 hours)
- Prep 4 (30 hours)
- Mastery Exam      ***Eligible for Certificate – Prep Level***

Certificate in ASL – Basic Level:

- Basic 1 (30 hours)
- Basic 2 (30 hours)
- Basic 3 (30 hours)
- Basic 4 (30 hours)
- Mastery Exam      ***Eligible for Certificate – Basic Level***

# Program Pathways

We are continuing to work with external partners to develop pathways for Camosun ASL students. Possible pathways include high school language credit and advanced training in American Sign Language/Deaf Studies. Please email [asl@camosun.ca](mailto:asl@camosun.ca) for up-to-date information.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **How much homework will I have?**

Based on course evaluations received for the program to-date, you may expect to have 5-10 hours of homework per week in addition to your scheduled classes. It is important to practice your ASL skills often. You will be encouraged to participate in conversation groups and events in the Deaf community.

## **Is this program connected to the Deaf community?**

Your instructor will bring in guest speakers from time to time, and will let you know about events that you can attend to improve your knowledge of the Deaf culture and to practice your ASL skills. We are in regular contact with Island Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre, and have connections with instructors and/or program leaders at the University of Victoria, Douglas College, University of the Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island University, and Vancouver Community College.

## **What job opportunities exist after I complete this program?**

Our goal is to support you to communicate better with Deaf and non-verbal people that you know or work with. Many of our past and current students work as Education Assistants or work in the community with a client who is Deaf or non-verbal. Others may attend some of all of our courses out of interest or to learn more about ASL prior to choosing a career in a related field.

## **Will this program help me to become an Interpreter?**

You can begin the process with us by completing ASL Prep level courses. Please contact the Douglas College Sign Language Interpretation program to learn more about their program and admission requirements. You will need to complete an ASLPI interview see <http://www.deafculturecentre.ca/public/Default.aspx?l=120&n=ASLPI> for details.

## **Is this program recognized at other schools?**

Camosun's ASL program uses provincially (and often nationally/internationally) recognized VISTA Signing Naturally curriculum. While formal partnerships are in development, curriculum is identical across BC and programs such as the Deaf Studies program at Vancouver Community College and the Sign Language Interpretation program at Douglas College recognize ASL programs from Camosun and other BC schools. Similarly, other schools in BC that use the VISTA curriculum will recognize your Prep and Basic Level certificates.

## **Further Program Information**

Continuing Education, Health Programs  
Phone: 250-370-3103 or Email: [asl@camosun.ca](mailto:asl@camosun.ca)