

American Sign Language Levels I and II - Novice Progress Checkpoint (One Credit Per Level).

(a) General requirements.

(1) Levels I and II - Novice progress checkpoint can be offered in elementary, middle, or high school. At the high school level, students are awarded one unit of credit per level for successful completion of the level.

(2) Using age-appropriate activities, students develop the ability to perform the tasks of the novice language learner. The novice language learner, when dealing with familiar topics, should:

(A) understand short-signed phrases when attending and respond expressively with learned material;

(B) produce learned signs, phrases, and sentences;

(C) detect main ideas in familiar material that is signed;

(D) be able to transcribe American Sign Language (ASL) into English gloss;

(E) recognize the importance of communication and how it relates to the American Deaf culture; and

(F) recognize the importance of acquiring accuracy of expression by knowing the components of ASL, including grammar.

(3) Students of ASL use expressive and receptive skills to reinforce comprehension.

(b) Introduction.

(1) Acquiring ASL incorporates expressive and receptive communication skills. Students develop these communication skills by using knowledge of the language, including grammar, and culture, communication and learning strategies, technology, and content from other subject areas to socialize, to acquire and provide information, to express feelings and opinions, and to get others to adopt a course of action. While knowledge of other cultures, connections to other disciplines, comparisons between languages and cultures, and community interaction all contribute to and enhance the communicative language learning experience, communication skills are the primary focus of language acquisition.

(2) Students of ASL gain the knowledge to understand cultural practices (what people do) and products (what people create) and to increase their understanding of other cultures as well as to interact with members of those cultures. Through the learning of ASL, students obtain the tools and develop the context needed to connect with other subject areas and to use the language to acquire information and reinforce other areas of study. Students of ASL develop an understanding of the nature of language, including grammar, and culture and use this knowledge to compare languages and cultures and to expand insight into their own language and culture. Students enhance their personal and public lives and meet the career demands of the 21st century by using ASL to participate in Deaf communities in Texas, in other states, and around the world.

(c) Knowledge and skills.

(1) Communication. The student communicates in ASL using expressive and receptive communication skills. The student is expected to:

(A) engage in a variety of signed exchanges of learned material to socialize and to provide and obtain information;

(B) demonstrate understanding of simple, clearly signed language such as simple stories, high-frequency commands, and brief instructions when dealing with familiar topics;

(C) present information using familiar words, phrases, and sentences to others; and

(D) demonstrate an awareness of ASL grammar, vocabulary, and phonology/cherology.

(2) Cultures. The student gains knowledge and understanding of other cultures. The student is expected to:

(A) demonstrate an understanding of the practices (what people do) and how they are related to the perspectives (how people perceive things) of the cultures studied; and

(B) demonstrate an understanding of the products (what people create) and how they are related to the perspectives (how people perceive things) of the cultures studied.

(3) Connections. The student uses the language to make connections with other subject areas and to acquire information. The student is expected to:

(A) use resources (that may include technology) in the language and cultures being studied to gain access to information; and

(B) use the language to obtain, reinforce, or expand knowledge of other subject areas.

(4) Comparisons. The student develops insight into the nature of language and culture by comparing the student's own language and culture to another. The student is expected to:

(A) demonstrate an understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the student's own language and ASL;

(B) demonstrate an understanding of the concept of culture through comparisons of the student's own culture and the American Deaf culture; and

(C) demonstrate an understanding of the influence of one language and culture on another.

(5) Communities. The student participates in communities at home and around the world by using languages other than English. The student is expected to:

(A) use the language both within and beyond the school setting through activities such as participating in cultural events and using technology to communicate; and

(B) show evidence of becoming a lifelong learner by using the language for personal enrichment and career development.