



INFORMATION SERIES

Where can I take Sign Language Classes?

What to be aware of when selecting a sign language class.

What is ASL?

American Sign Language (ASL) is the natural, native visual-gestural language primarily used by members of the Deaf culture in the United States and Canada. It is the fourth most commonly-used language in the U.S. ASL is not based on, nor is it derived from English or any spoken language. It has its own grammar, lexicons, facial expressions and body shifts. It is not a universal language, nor does it have a written form.

What is Signed English?

Signed English refers to coding systems which attempt to represent English visually. These systems are usually referred to as forms of Manually Coded English. There are several forms of Manually Coded English of Signed Systems (for example, Signed English, SEE I, SEE II, and others). These Signed Systems borrow signs from ASL but use them with English sentence structure. Some of the Signed Systems also invent new sign symbols to represent English words and grammatical markers such as 'ed', 'ness', and so on. Unlike ASL, facial expression or body movement to indicate grammatical functions are not used with signed systems.

This list is provided for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of sign language courses or programs on this list does not constitute approval or disapproval by the Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (RICDHH). Send additions, corrections or deletions to the RICDHH office.

Community College of Rhode Island

401-825-2271 v
3 Credit College Course

John F. Spellman Center

Email: JFSpellman@aol.com
ASL Classes and Family Sign Language Class

Rhode Island College

401-456-8270 v
3 Credit College Course

Bridgemark, Inc.

Beginning sign classes
401-781-2700 v or 401-354-7640 vp

Rhode Island School for the Deaf

401-222-7433 v/tty
Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced ASL

Corliss Institute

401-245-3609 v or 401-237-6652 vp
Beginner ASL

Bristol Community College

508-678-2811 x 2748 v
Deaf Studies, AA Degree Program
Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced ASL
3 Credit College Courses

Roger Williams University

401-222-7433 v/tty
3 Credit Course Levels 1, 2 and 3

University of Rhode Island

401-874-5969 v
Sign Language Class

Perspectives Corporations

401-294-8181 x 152 v
Ages 16 and up

Updated February 2010