

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

Rhode Island College

401-456-8270 v
3 Credit College Course

Rhode Island School for the Deaf

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

Bristol Community College

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

John F. Spellman Center**Rhode Island Association of the Deaf, Inc.**

Bruce Bucci, President
Email: riadprez@yahoo.com
ASL Classes and Family
Sign Language Class

Kent House

Beginning sign classes
401-781-2700 v/tty

The Learning Connection

274-9330 v
Beginner ASL

University of Rhode Island

401-874-5969 v
Sign Language Class

Note: V = voice telephone number, TTY = teletext phone. If you do not have access to a TTY dial RI Relay Service at 711 and give the operator that answers the TTY number you are attempting to contact.