

Comprehensive Program Review Report



Program Review - American Sign Language

Program Summary

2023-2024

Prepared by: Annette Klein

What are the strengths of your area?: The strength of American Sign Language at College of the Sequoias is the large number of students who want to learn about and understand Deaf Culture and community. Many of them are able to communicate with Deaf/Hard of Hearing at their place of work. Additionally, there are 6 adjunct instructors and one Full Time ASL instructor.

In terms of enrollment, ASL is one of the most stable programs within the Language and Communication Studies Division. ASL offers approximately 20 courses--ASL 1-4, ASL 005 (Deaf Culture), ASL 006 (Deaf Literature) and ASL 110 (Intro to ASL Interpreting) --within each semester in a given year. There is a long-standing high level of demand for all ASL classes, which satisfy AA/AS degree requirements as well as being key components of the IGETC and General Ed Certification packages for transfer to the CSU and UC systems. At the end of Spring 2016 the total ASL FTES rate was 94.81 and in 2022 it is 119.00 which is an approximately 26% increase. In 2023 the ASL FTES rate was 111.00 which is lower than 2022 due to the impact of the pandemic. I predict the FTES will have a growing trend again in the years to come. COS is working to increase the success rates of our various under-performing subgroups for race/ethnicity and under ASL in 2018-2019 it was shown a success rate of 75%. In 2022-2023, the success rate only declined by 1% which is 74%. I foresee this growth trend will continue since it is stable than the previous years. [1] Student demands for ASL instruction classes remains high even though with the post COVID circumstances. Also, I also had three new courses (ASL 001 - online, ASL 005 - Deaf Culture, and ASL 006 - Deaf Literature) be approved during the 2019-2020 academic year. ASL 001 - online and ASL 005 - Deaf Culture was first offered during the Fall 2020 semester. ASL 006 - Deaf Literature was first offered during the Spring 2021 semester. I have inputted ASL 005 (Deaf Culture) and ASL 006 (Deaf Literature) as required major courses for the ASL AA degree requirement. ASL 002, 003 and 004 were also offered online but we needed to cancel the "online" and move back to face to face classes but the numbers seem to remain steady. This shows increases in ASL classes being offered each semester.

ASL has slowly been climbing back from the mandated budget cuts after the 2010/11 year. Since then we have seen significant growth in ASL classes; in 2020-2021, our FTES in ASL 1 has reached 83.07, with the course continuing to see success rates hovering around 71%.[1]

What improvements are needed?: 1. Need curriculum review and add additional courses:

Full time ASL instructor, Annette was working on proposing two new courses through Courseleaf. The two courses are named "English to American Sign Language (ASL) Translation" and "American Sign Language (ASL) to English Translation". Once approved then would add those two courses onto the ASL AA degree as electives. Annette realized that she does not have enough experience or knowledge in creating those new courses so I'm hoping to have another Full Time instructor with Interpreting experience to be hired by Fall 2024 and be available to create and teach these new courses. These new courses would prepare students for entry-level interpreting positions in a variety of settings such as schools and social services agencies without the need of having a BA degree. There is a huge need for ASL interpreters in the Central Valley.

2. It is time to add another Full-Time position for the ASL program specifically to work on establishing an ASL Interpreting Program. Since I was hired as a Full- Time instructor in 2016, ASL classes have steadily grown. At the end of Spring 2016 the total ASL FTES rate was 94.81 and in 2022 it is 119.00 which is an approximately 26% increase. In 2023 the ASL FTES rate was 111.00 which is lower than 2022 due to the impact of the pandemic. I predict the FTES will have a growing trend again in the years to come. I am the only Full-Time instructor for the ASL program. We currently have 6 adjunct instructors this Fall 2023 semester. Two of those adjunct instructors has retired at the end of Spring/Fall 2022 semesters. On top of that, last year two more adjunct instructors have gotten Full Time jobs at Fresno City College and will no longer be teaching at the College of the Sequoias.

Therefore, the ASL department has lost 4 adjunct instructors. We are in need of looking to hire more adjunct instructors to cover several classes for Spring/Fall 2024 at the College of the Sequoias since they are not staffed as of yet. During the Fall 2018 semester, we unfortunately had to cancel our ASL instructional classes at Corcoran High School due to not being able to find an adjunct instructor to teach the classes. I fear that will happen again in the future since it is difficult to have an adjunct instructor continue for many years rather than just semesters and constantly changing adjunct instructors. During Fall 2020 semester we had to have one of the ASL adjunct instructors be temporary "Full-Time" to cover classes that needed instructors. So, by hiring and securing another Full-Time faculty would lessen the stress of looking for new adjunct ASL instructors and having all classes be staffed as well as establishing an ASL Interpreting Program.

I am also currently working on creating new courses to add onto the ASL AA degree as electives. Those two new courses are "American Sign Language to English Translation" and "English to American Sign Language Translation". This is due to the demand of students who are interested in becoming interpreters. By creating those new courses will prepare students for entry-level interpreting positions in a variety of settings such as schools and social services agencies without having the requirement of having a BA degree. Fresno State has a four-year degree in Deaf Studies, Interpreting and Deaf Education. A BA degree is required for those who want to become certified interpreters. Once those two new courses are approved then we will for sure have to seek more instructors to teach extra course offerings. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the demand for sign language interpreters is expected to grow by 20% from 2021 to 2031, which is much faster than the average for all occupations.

The demand for American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters is high, and it is expected to grow due to the increasing use of video relay services, which allow people to conduct online video calls and use a sign language interpreter. In conclusion, sign language interpreters are in high demand, and the profession is expected to grow at a faster rate than average. [2] I am constantly hearing by the community and word of mouth that there is a huge need to have an ASL Interpreting Program at the College of the Sequoias.

By adding a Full-Time faculty member to the ASL Program, we would be able to increase student success and exposure to the ASL interpreting field and needs of the Deaf community. The additional Full-Time faculty member would be able to teach the additional new courses that are pending approval as well as courses that cannot be staffed. I believe that this will help expand and elevate the program and increase interest and motivation for those students who are wanting to pursue their dreams and aspirations in this field.

[1]: "ASL PR Dashboard" in Document Repository.

[2]: "Need for ASL Interpreters article" in Document Repository.

3. Improve Deaf Culture Awareness:

Provide and promote more Deaf Events through the ASL department for ASL students on campus. Annette will continue to work with the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Center (DHHSC) and Fox Interpreting in being creative in having events. This is to encourage COS students and the deaf community to come and interact together.

Describe any external opportunities or challenges.: In order to become certified interpreters, you need to have a BA degree. COS need an ASL AA degree that is transferrable to the CSU and UC systems. COS needs to establish an ASL Interpreter Program.

Overall SLO Achievement: Overall 2022-2023 Courses Success are:

ASL 001 - 71%

ASL 002 - 79%

ASL 003 - 79%

ASL 004 - 100%

ASL 110 - 92%

Changes Based on SLO Achievement: There has not been much change in the overall Course Success from 2016-2022.

Overall PLO Achievement: Overall, 2022/2023 Program Success for the program is 74%.

Changes Based on PLO Achievement: There has not been much change in the overall Program Success from 2016-2023.

Outcome cycle evaluation: The ASL AA degree and all ASL courses are on a three-year cycle. The ASL degree is due to be next assessed in 2023-2024.

Action: Hire another Full Time Faculty for the ASL Program in order to grow the program for student success.

It is time to add another Full-Time position for the ASL program specifically to work on establishing an ASL Interpreting Program. Since I was hired as a Full-Time instructor in 2016, ASL classes have steadily grown. At the end of Spring 2016 the total ASL FTES rate

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was 94.81 and in 2022 it is 119.00 which is an approximately 26% increase. In 2023 the ASL FTES rate was 111.00 which is lower than 2022 due to the impact of the pandemic. I predict the FTES will have a growing trend again in the years to come. I am the only Full-Time instructor for the ASL program. We currently have 6 adjunct instructors this Fall 2023 semester. Two of those adjunct instructors has retired at the end of Spring/Fall 2022 semesters. On top of that, last year two more adjunct instructors have gotten Full Time jobs at Fresno City College and will no longer be teaching at the College of the Sequoias. Therefore, the ASL department has lost 4 adjunct instructors. We are in need of looking to hire more adjunct instructors to cover several classes for Spring/Fall 2024 at the College of the Sequoias since they are not staffed as of yet. During the Fall 2018 semester, we unfortunately had to cancel our ASL instructional classes at Corcoran High School due to not being able to find an adjunct instructor to teach the classes. I fear that will happen again in the future since it is difficult to have an adjunct instructor continue for many years rather than just semesters and constantly changing adjunct instructors. During Fall 2020 semester we had to have one of the ASL adjunct instructors be temporary "Full-Time" to cover classes that needed instructors. So, by hiring and securing another Full-Time faculty would lessen the stress of looking for new adjunct ASL instructors and having all classes be staffed as well as establishing an ASL Interpreting Program.

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[1]: "ASL PR Dashboard" in Document Repository.

[2]: "Need.." in Document

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Implementation Timeline: 2019 - 2020, 2020 - 2021, 2021 - 2022, 2022 - 2023, 2023 - 2024

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Identify related course/program outcomes:

Person(s) Responsible (Name and Position): Annette Klein

Rationale (With supporting data): (see "Action" above)

Priority: High

Safety Issue: No

External Mandate: No

Safety/Mandate Explanation:

Update on Action

Updates

Update Year: 2023 - 2024

08/28/2023

Status: Continue Action Next Year

Annette Klein plans to propose for a new Full time Faculty Instructor position for the ASL Program in hopes of hiring someone with ASL/Interpreting experience and knowledge. There is a need for an ASL Interpreting Program at the College of the Sequoias. It was not accepted during the 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2022-2023 academic years but will propose again during the 2023-2024 academic year.

Impact on District Objectives/Unit Outcomes (Not Required):

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Related Documents:

[Need for ASL Interpreters](#)

Resources Description

Personnel - Faculty - One Full- Time ASL Faculty member (Active)

Why is this resource required for this action?: It is time to add another Full-Time position for the ASL program specifically to work on establishing an ASL Interpreting Program. Since I was hired as a Full- Time instructor in 2016, ASL classes have steadily grown. At the end of Spring 2016 the total ASL FTES rate was 94.81 and in 2022 it is 119.00 which is an approximately 26% increase. In 2023 the ASL FTES rate was 111.00 which is lower than 2022 due to the impact of the pandemic. I predict the FTES will have a growing trend again in the years to come. I am the only Full-Time instructor for the ASL program. We currently have 6 adjunct instructors this Fall 2023 semester. Two of those adjunct instructors has retired at the end of Spring/Fall 2022 semesters. On top of that, last year two more adjunct instructors have gotten Full Time jobs at Fresno City College and will no longer be teaching at the College of the Sequoias. Therefore, the ASL department has lost 4 adjunct instructors. We are in need of looking to hire more adjunct instructors to cover several classes for Spring/Fall 2024 at the College of the Sequoias since they are not staffed as of yet. During the Fall 2018 semester, we unfortunately had to cancel our ASL instructional classes at Corcoran High School due to not being able to find an adjunct instructor to teach the classes. I fear that will happen again in the future since it is difficult to have an adjunct instructor continue for many years rather than just semesters and constantly changing adjunct instructors. During Fall 2020 semester we had to have one of the ASL adjunct instructors be temporary "Full-Time" to cover classes that needed instructors. So, by hiring and securing another Full-Time faculty would lessen the stress of looking for new adjunct ASL instructors and having all classes be staffed as well as establishing an ASL Interpreting Program.

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By adding a Full-Time faculty member to the ASL Program, we would be able to increase student success and exposure to the ASL interpreting field and needs of the Deaf community. The additional Full-Time faculty member would be able to teach the additional new courses that are pending approval as well as courses that cannot be staffed. I believe that this will help expand and elevate the program and increase interest and motivation for those students who are wanting to pursue their dreams and aspirations in this field.

[1]: "ASL PR Dashboard" in Document Repository.

[2]: "Need for ASL Interpreters article" in Document Repository.

[3] "Is there a shortage of ASL interpreters?" in Document Repository.

Notes (optional):

Cost of Request (Nothing will be funded over the amount listed.): 100000

Related Documents:

[ASL - 2018 Program Review Data.pdf](#)

[Shortage of ASL Interpreters](#)

[Need for ASL interpreters Article.docx](#)

[ASL Interpreter LMI.pdf](#)

[Need for ASL Interpreters](#)

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Link Actions to District Objectives

District Objectives: 2018-2021
District Objective 1.1 - The District will increase FTES by 1.75% over the three years
District Objective 2.1 - Increase the percentage of students who earn an associate degree or certificate (CTE and Non-CTE) by 5 percentage points over three years
District Objective 2.2 - Increase the number of students who transfer to a four-year institution by 10 percent over three years
District Objective 4.1 - Increase the use of data for decision-making at the District and department/unit level

Action: 2022-2023 Create two new courses to add onto the ASL program.

The two courses that are needed to be created is due by high demand of ASL students who want to become interpreters. The two courses are named "English to American Sign Language (ASL) Translation" and "American Sign Language (ASL) to English Translation". These two courses would be added onto the ASL AA degree as electives.

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Implementation Timeline: 2021 - 2022, 2022 - 2023, 2023 - 2024

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Identify related course/program outcomes:

Person(s) Responsible (Name and Position): Annette Klein - ASL Full Time Instructor

Rationale (With supporting data):

Priority: High

Safety Issue: No

External Mandate: No

Safety/Mandate Explanation:

Update on Action
<i>Updates</i>
Update Year: 2023 - 2024 08/28/2023
Status: Continue Action Next Year
Annette has not had a chance to create those courses as I do not have much experience or knowledge in the "interpreting" field. Hoping to hire a Full Time ASL/Interpreting instructor to work on those new courses.
Impact on District Objectives/Unit Outcomes (Not Required):

Link Actions to District Objectives

District Objectives: 2018-2021
District Objective 1.1 - The District will increase FTES by 1.75% over the three years
District Objective 2.1 - Increase the percentage of students who earn an associate degree or certificate (CTE and Non-CTE) by 5 percentage points over three years
District Objective 2.2 - Increase the number of students who transfer to a four-year institution by 10 percent over three years

Action: Establish ASL Interpreting Program for students to obtain a "Certification of Achievement". This will mandate the growth of the ASL Program at COS and provide more ASL interpreters in the Central Valley.

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Goal is to establish an ASL Interpreting Program and provide a "Certification of Achievement" for the students. The ASL Interpreting Program will prepare students for entry-level interpreting positions in a variety of settings such as schools and social services agencies without having the requirement of having a BA degree. The Certification of Achievement will also provide students employment who are interested in becoming ASL interpreters in the Central Valley. There is a very large need for ASL interpreters within the Central Valley and surrounding areas.

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Implementation Timeline: 2019 - 2020, 2021 - 2022, 2023 - 2024

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Identify related course/program outcomes:

Person(s) Responsible (Name and Position): Annette Klein

Rationale (With supporting data):

Priority: Medium

Safety Issue: No

External Mandate: No

Safety/Mandate Explanation:

Update on Action

Updates

Update Year: 2023 - 2024

08/28/2023

Status: Continue Action Next Year

Annette Klein has proposed for a new Full time ASL Instructor position in hopes of hiring someone with ASL and interpreting experience and knowledge. It was not accepted during the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 academic years but will propose again during the 2022-2023 academic year.

Impact on District Objectives/Unit Outcomes (Not Required):

Link Actions to District Objectives

District Objectives: 2018-2021

District Objective 1.1 - The District will increase FTES by 1.75% over the three years

District Objective 2.2 - Increase the number of students who transfer to a four-year institution by 10 percent over three years