



SECTION I

PART U POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR COUNTING AND ACCEPTING AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CREDITS IN PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN COLORADO

Legislation passed in the 2004 legislative session requires public higher education institutions in the State to treat American Sign Language as a world language for the purposes of granting and receiving academic credit. This policy is designed to ensure that:

- Higher Education institutions treat American Sign Language as a world language; and
- Students are able to count the completion of American Sign Language (ASL) courses or demonstrated proficiency in ASL toward all college or university world language requirements, except specific requirements related to an academic major.

This policy applies to all state-supported institutions of higher education (four-year and two-year colleges), including all entering freshmen admitted into any state-supported college or university, and all continuing undergraduate students in the public system of higher education in Colorado. **23-1-128, C.R.S.**, issues the following directive to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education:

Commission directive – American Sign Language in higher education institutions. (3) (a) On or before December 1, 2004, the commission shall adopt the necessary policies and procedures to require higher education institutions in the state to treat American Sign Language as a foreign (world) language for purposes of granting and receiving academic credit.

2.00 Policy

2.01 This policy applies to all state-supported institutions of higher education (two-year and four-year institutions).

2.02 A student who is enrolled in a state-supported institution of higher education that offers credit for world language courses may receive academic credit for completing courses or demonstrating proficiency in American Sign Language on the same basis as any other world language.

2.03 A student will be able to count American Sign Language credits toward satisfying any world language requirement, unless a specific world language other than American Sign Language is required for a particular academic major.



- 2.04 Academic credit received for either successful completion of American Sign Language courses in a secondary school or higher education institution or demonstrated proficiency in American Sign Language may be counted toward satisfaction of the world language entrance requirements of a higher education institution in the state.
- 2.05 Colleges and universities may offer one or more elective courses in American Sign Language, in which case students may count American Sign Language courses as elective credits on the same basis as world language elective credits and have them fulfill gtPathways lower-division general education requirements. Institutions of higher education are not required to offer ASL coursework.

3.00 Procedures

- 3.01 The awarding of academic credit for ASL courses is based upon equivalencies, i.e., one semester of college ASL coursework is equivalent to one semester of college world language coursework.
- 3.02 Students will need to satisfactorily complete, either through ASL coursework taken in high school or college ASL coursework, or demonstrated proficiency by exam, the appropriate amount of coursework and/or level of proficiency necessary to meet college world language admission requirements and/or graduation requirements. For example, some colleges require three semesters of college-level world language, or equivalent proficiency, to graduate, in which case three semesters of ASL coursework, or comparable proficiency, will be required.
- 3.03 The 2010 Higher Education Admission Requirements (HEAR) requires a minimum of one year of high school world language coursework. One year of high school ASL coursework, or demonstrated proficiency, can be substituted to fulfill the one year of world language requirement. One year of high school world language (one unit) equates to one semester of college-level world language. If the student has already met the world language HEAR requirement, high school ASL coursework can be applied toward satisfying the minimum academic elective requirements of the pre-collegiate admissions requirements in the same manner as any other additional world language credits.
- 3.04 Students whose ASL credits or successful proficiency test results do not satisfy college world language requirements may appeal to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, using the Commission's student appeal process.
- 3.05 To ensure transferability of ASL courses, any college-level ASL course or proficiency exam score deemed to be equivalent to a world language course approved for guaranteed transfer under the Commission's gtPathways statewide transfer program, will also be approved for guaranteed transfer and shall be applied to lower-division general education requirements.

