

## SECTION I

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

#### 1.00 Introduction

Legislation passed in the 2004 legislative session requires public higher education institutions in the State to treat American Sign Language as a foreign-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 foreign-world language;
- Students are able to count the completion of American Sign Language courses or demonstrated proficiency in ASL toward all college or university foreign world language requirements, except specific requirements related to an academic major.

This policy applies to all state-supported institutions of higher education (i.e., 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 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 (i.e., two-year and four-year ~~colleges/institutions~~) ~~that offer academic credit for foreign~~ (also sometimes referred to as “world”) language courses.

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

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

~~2.04 Two units of American Sign Language credits earned or awarded in high school (or the equivalent earned prior to the time of application) shall satisfy the foreign world language entrance requirements of any public higher education institution in Colorado.~~

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.

**Comment [IKM1]:** Why not state this, rather than risk having to come back and revise this policy yet again if/when HEAR requirements change? Or maybe it doesn't matter given section 3.03 below??

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 ~~foreign-world~~ language elective credits and have them fulfill gtPathways lower-division general education requirements. ~~Colleges 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 ~~foreign-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 ~~foreign-world~~ language admission requirements and/or graduation requirements. For example, some colleges require three semesters of college-level ~~foreign-world~~ language, or equivalent proficiency, to graduate, in which case three semesters of ASL coursework, or comparable proficiency, will be required.

3.03 ~~One year of high school foreign world language (one unit) equates to one semester of college level foreign world language. Beginning in The 2010, Higher Education Admission Requirements (HEAR) all four year colleges in Colorado will require a minimum of two one years of high school foreign world language coursework, in the same language for college admissions purposes. Thus to satisfy the minimum foreign language pre-collegiate admissions requirement, two One years of high school ASL coursework, or demonstrated proficiency, would be required can be substituted to fulfill the one year of foreign world language requirement. One year of high school world language (one unit) equates to one semester of college-level world language. Whether or not ASL high school coursework is taken to meet the foreign-world language pre-collegiate admissions requirement, high school ASL coursework shall count toward satisfying the minimum academic elective requirements of the pre-collegiate admissions requirements in the same manner as any other foreign-world language credits.~~

**Comment [EC2]:** Changing this as it is incorrect – 2010 HEAR changes requires ONE unit (or ONE HS year) of foreign language.

~~3.04 A college that does not offer ASL coursework may seek advice from the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind if it wishes to consider developing such courses.~~

3.045 Students whose ASL credits or successful proficiency test results do not satisfy college ~~foreign-world~~ language requirements may appeal to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, using the Commission’s student appeal process.

3.056 To ensure transferability of ASL courses, any college-level ASL course or proficiency exam score deemed ~~by the GE 25 Council~~ to be equivalent to a ~~foreign-world~~ language course approved for guaranteed transfer under the ~~CCHE’s Commission’s GT-gt~~ Pathways statewide transfer program, will also be approved for guaranteed transfer and shall be applied to lower-division general education requirements.

**Comment [EC3]:** Carl spoke to a representative from the School for the Deaf and Blind – she said that they serve K-12 more and that other institutions of higher education would be a better resource in creating an ASL course – I think this is understood and we can just remove the comment entirely.