

Study Guide for Placement Test for American Sign Language

The placement test is a written and performance-based instrument whose purpose is providing a general assessment about the student's ability in American Sign Language. The test will consist of multiple-choice questions and a performance portion in the areas of receptive, expressive, culture and grammar skills and knowledge. You must pass the written portion of the test before you are allowed to take the performance portion. This means you will be responsible to show knowledge of grammar in written form and be able to show that knowledge through your signing abilities on video. Placement test scores will be valid for one year after the test is taken. The test can only be taken twice within a year and with at least a six-month interval between tries. Once a student has completed any of the courses in the language program, s/he cannot take the placement exam again.

The placement tests are divided into 4 different levels.

YOU MUST PASS AT A SCORE OF 85 TO BE PLACED AT ANY LEVEL.

ASL 1	Must pass to be placed in ASL 2
ASL 2	Must pass to be placed in ASL 3
ASL 3	Must pass to be placed in ASL 4
ASL 4	Must pass to be placed in ASL 5 (For Majors Only)

A passing score is 85. Students who do not pass the placement test can retake the test the following semester. Students in need with additional advising or with concerns regarding the placement results are asked to make an appointment with a designated faculty member.

You may take the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI) instead of the placement test to be placed in any of the ASL classes. Please follow the schedule below for placement if you have taken this assessment. Arrangements for taking the SLPI can be made through any service agency that provides support services for the deaf or hard of hearing. The student with the agency must make arrangements and proof in written form must be submitted for placement.

<u>Level</u>	<u>SLPI Score</u>
ASL 4	Advanced Plus
ASL 3	Advanced
ASL 2	Intermediate
ASL 1	Novice

The following is a list of information that you should be familiar with when taking the placement test. You will need to be able to demonstrate your knowledge in written form as well as performing examples of the following list in American Sign Language.

Linguistical/Grammatical Terms:

Time Concepts
Weekly
Monthly
Daily
ETC
The question marker
Non-Manual Signals

Eyebrow grammar
Yes/No Questions
WH Questions
Rhetorical Questions
Directionality
Topic Comment Structure
Conditional Statements

Time Sequenced Ordering
Age Spot
Time Spot
Gender Distinction
Initialization
Multiple Meanings
Shoulder Shifting
Contrastive Structure
Use of Space
Signing Space
The five parameters of ASL
Listing and Ordering Techniques
Conjugating Verbs

Pronouns

Personal
Possessive

Nouns

Verbs

Classifiers

Trace
Whole Entity
Element
Descriptive
Instrument

Identifying Classifiers

Asking Have You

Describing techniques

People
Clothing
Structures
Human Body
Hairstyles
Characteristics
Natural World

Deaf Culture:

How to interact with Deaf People

Labels and Identity
Name Signs
Deaf Family Dynamics
The Deaf Experience the Arts
Deaf Literature
Friendship Patterns in the Deaf

Community

Deaf Education
Deaf President Now
Gallaudet University
The Football Huddle

Health Conditions
Accidents
Injuries
Comparisons
Compounds and Contractions
Finger spelled Loan Signs
Commands
Intensity
Mouth Morphemes
Time
Indexing
Eye Gaze
Temporal Aspects
Spatial Agreement
Narrative Structure
Illustrating Facts
Explaining Rules
Locations
Location Changes
Using the sign Have
Agent Marker
How to fix mistakes
Negation
Assertion
Tense Markers
Tense Syntax
Noun-Verb Pairs
Pluralization
Spatial Organization
Spatial Visualization
The Rule of 9
Numbers
Finger Spelling
Finance
Banking
Money

I King Jordan
Dummy Hoy
Marlee Matlin
Turn Taking
Exchanging Information
Ethnicity and the Deaf
Collective Values
TTY and TDD
Video Phones
Video Relay
Pagers
Greetings and Goodbyes

Introductions	Deaf Blind
Cross Cultural Communication	Home Coming Events
Involving Others in Conversations	Hearing Aids
Conversations with Hands Full	Cochlear Implants
Immediate Reactions	Mainstreaming
Compliments	Residential Schools for the Deaf
Sympathy	Deaf Clubs
Responding with Humor	Silent Dinners
Apologies	Hard of Hearing
Impromptu Interactions	Alexander Graham Bell
Pidgin Signed English	Deaf Community
Signed English	Late-Deafened
Total Communication	History of American Sign
Interpreters	Language

Vocabulary:

Please refer to the following texts:

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|--------------|--|
| ASL 1 | Master ASL! (Chapters 1-5)
Singing Naturally Level 1 |
| ASL 2 | Master ASL! (Chapters 1-10)
Singing Naturally Levels 1 and 2 |
| ASL 3 | Master ASL! (Chapters 1-10)
Singing Naturally Levels 1 and 2
Singing Naturally Level 3 (Chapters 18-20) |
| ASL 4 | Master ASL! (Chapters 1-10)
Singing Naturally Levels 1 and 2
Singing Naturally Level 3 (Chapters 18-24) |

You will be expected to know vocabulary up to each level that you choose to take the test. Additional vocabulary could consist of geographic signs for countries, major cities, states, and continents.

Recommended Books to Study to Prepare for Placement Test:

<i>Master ASL! Level One</i>	Jason E. Zinza
<i>Singing Naturally Levels 1-3</i>	Ken Mikos, Cheri Smith, Ella Mae Lentz
<i>For Hearing People Only</i>	Matthew S. More, Linda Levitan

Other Suggested Books to Study to Prepare for Placement Test:

American Sign Language A Teachers Resource Text on Grammar and Culture.
(The Green Book) written by Charlotte Baker-Shenk and Dennis Cokely.

Classifiers: A Closer Look Volume 1 Patricia Lessard