



Undergraduate Studies

Department of South African Sign Language and Deaf Studies

Why Sign Language?

SASL is used through South Africa and is the national language of Deaf South Africans. According to the 2011 Census, South African Sign Language is the first language of approximately 235 000 people in South Africa. Since 2018, it is offered as a Home Language subject at South African schools.

By acquiring this unique South African language, you gain access to the Deaf world, thus enriching yourself, but also placing yourself in a position to help advance the position of the Deaf community.

The course is offered over three years, but students can exit after their first, second, or third year. There is no prerequisite for enrolment for SASL on first- year level except for motivation, passion, and eagerness to learn. To enroll as a second year SASL student, successful completion of the SASL first-year modules is a prerequisite.

SASL as a subject is divided into four separate modules, all of which are compulsory:

- **Linguistics:** this offers the student a basis of understanding the grammatical aspects of signed languages.
- **Deaf Studies:** the focus of this module is to provide students with information about the Deaf culture, organisations for the Deaf as well as to establish an understanding of the struggle Deaf people have in having their language recognised.
- **SASL Acquisition and Conversational:** During this hour, students are taught vocabulary (signs) related to specific topics, e.g., family, school, food, animals, etc. Students also can practice what they have learned.

Module Codes:

First year

SASL1514 (Acquisition & Conversational 40%, Deaf Studies 30%, Linguistics 30%)

SASL1524 (Acquisition & Conversational 40%, Deaf Studies 30%, Linguistics 30%)

Second year

SASL2614 (Acquisition & Conversational 40%, Deaf Studies 30%, Linguistics 30%)

SASL2624 (Acquisition & Conversational 40%, Deaf Studies 30%, Linguistics 30%)

Third year

SASL3718 (Acquisition & Conversational 40%, Deaf Studies 30%, Linguistics 30%)

SASL3728 (Acquisition & Conversational 40%, Deaf Studies 30%, Linguistics 30%)

Other undergraduate modules offered by the Department of South African Sign Language and Deaf Studies:

SICL3512 (Acquisition & Conversational 70%, Deaf Studies & Linguistics 30%)

SICL3524 (Acquisition & Conversational 70%, Deaf Studies & Linguistics 30%)

SICL3504 – Year module (Acquisition & Conversational 70%, Deaf Studies & Linguistics 30%)

