



AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE POLICY

To meet COM's foreign language requirement, students must have second semester proficiency or higher in a foreign language. Recently, this only included languages like Spanish, Italian and Arabic. We have changed our policy, however, to now include American Sign Language (ASL). This change comes about after a reevaluation of the philosophy behind our foreign language requirement. No longer a literal interpretation, our foreign language requirement now strives to enable students to communicate directly with a group of people or peoples they would otherwise not be able to do so with. This includes the Deaf community.

The name of the policy will not change. The word "foreign" will still be used, but now no longer only in a geographical sense. COM acknowledges that there is a strong Deaf community living within our national borders and that the study of this culture is no less significant than studying the culture of any foreign nation.

The decision was made after deliberation with the other deans, examination of the policies at the other schools at BU, and in consultation with people knowledgeable in ASL. To reiterate, COM currently does count ASL as a viable fulfillment to its foreign language requirement. Unlike CAS, however, COM only requires second semester proficiency, so the cumulative exam administered after the 4th semester is not required.