



New Mexico Commission for Deaf & Hard of Hearing

Toll-Free: 1.800.489.8536 | Albuquerque 505.383.6530

Website: www.cdhh.nm.gov

American Sign Language Classes

For more information contact:

nmcdhh.info@cdhh.nm.gov

505.383.6530 Voice/TTY

505.435.9319 Videophone for Sign Language Users

What is American Sign Language?

American Sign Language (ASL) is a complete, complex language that employs signs made with the hands and other movements, including facial expressions and postures of the body. It is the first language of many Deaf North Americans, and one of several communication options available to Deaf people. ASL is said to be the fourth most commonly used language in the United States.

Where are some American Sign Language Classes in New Mexico?

If you would like to learn in a classroom environment there are a few options. Keep in mind there are differences in cost and whether the student wants to learn conversational ASL or go further and study to be an interpreter. The New Mexico Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NMCDHH) also maintains a library with ASL books, dictionaries, and videos.

In Albuquerque:

- *University of New Mexico**, Website: <https://ling.unm.edu/signed-language-program/index.html> Phone: 505.277.0928 (voice/tty)
- *Central New Mexico Community College (CNM)*, Contact information can be found at www.cnm.edu/contact/ or email ASL Instructor Julie Mason at jmason15@cnm.edu
- *Albuquerque Sign Language Academy*, Email Rachael at rachaelm@aslacademy.com
- *NMSD Sign Class*, for families and educators of Deaf and Hard of Hearing children. Contact the Center for Educational Consultation and Training at the New Mexico School for the Deaf 505-476-6400 or www.nmsd.k12.nm.us/o/nmsd/page/asl-classes. Classes are free if a child in your family is Deaf.

In Santa Fe:

- *Santa Fe Community College*, Website: www.sfcc.edu/programs/american-sign-language-interpreting. Contact Lisa Rutland at 505.819.5630 or by email at lisa.rutland@sfcc.edu.
- *NMSD Sign Class*, for families and educators of Deaf and Hard of Hearing children and students. Contact the Center for Educational Consultation and Training at the New Mexico School for the Deaf 505.476.6400 or www.nmsd.k12.nm.us/o/nmsd/page/asl-classes. Classes are free if a child in your family is Deaf.

In or near Las Cruces:

- New Mexico State University, Website: <https://catalogs.nmsu.edu/> or contact Sandra Williams at sanwilli@nmsu.edu.
- El Paso Community College*, Website: www.epcc.edu/Academics/SignLanguage
Contact Adriana D. Garcia Phone 915.831.3147 or email at agarci44@epcc.edu.
- UTEP P3 Professional & Public Programs, Website www.ppp.utep.edu Phone 915.747.5142

* These schools offer a curriculum for students who want to become interpreters. Please see the “Interpreter Education” and “How to Become a Signed Language Interpreter” fact sheets for more information.

Other Resources:

The best way to learn ASL is in a classroom or interacting with Deaf people. If that is not possible for you, use caution when using websites or YouTube videos as we have found some to be inaccurate. Here are a few websites you can try:

1. www.gallaudet.edu/asl-connect has free sign language classes. Learn basic ASL for free.
2. www.lifeprint.com with Dr. Bill Vicars, a Deaf man who is an ASL instructor at California State University in Sacramento.
3. <http://aslnook.com> has fun, family-friendly story telling.
4. www.aslpro.cc has lots of vocabulary words.

Another resource is the NMCDHH Library located in our Albuquerque and Las Cruces offices. We have subjects on ASL, idioms, and interpreting, to name a few. To browse titles that we have in our library, go to <https://nmcdhh.librarika.com>. If you wish to become a member and reserve items, contact nmcdhh.info@cdhh.nm.gov with your name, address and phone number and we will sign you up!