



August 29, 2024

Dear Chair and Members of the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee:

On March 6, 2024, the Arts and Humanities Subcommittee 2 reviewed a request from the Center for Languages, Literatures and Cultures to create a new undergraduate major in ASL Access, Equity and Inclusion.

The proposed major has the goal of training students in American Sign Language and Deaf Studies to create a more supportive society where deaf individuals can thrive. The proposed major responds to the rapid increase in enrollments in ASL and the growing need for professionals in a variety of fields (criminology, education, journalism, medicine, public policy, etc.) with proficiency in ASL, cultural and historical knowledge of Deaf communities in the United States, and the necessary intercultural competencies to serve those communities. Additionally, the proposed major enhances equity in higher education and strengthens OSU's status as a deaf-welcoming institution.

Beyond the pre-requisites (ASL 1101, 1102, and 1103), the 30-credit hour major includes the following:

- 3 core courses (totaling 9 credit hours)
- 7 elective courses (totaling 21 credit hours)

As detailed in the proposal, the new major will offer an innovative combination of ASL, ASL Studies and Deaf Studies with a focus on access, equity and inclusion, and will provide a curricular pathway unavailable at our peer institutions in the Big Ten.

A&H Subcommittee 2 voted unanimously to approve the request with eight contingencies and one recommendation. Those items have since been addressed by the unit and the proposal is now advanced to the ASCC with a motion to approve.

Sincerely,

Laura A. Podalsky
Professor
Department of Spanish and Portuguese
Chair, ASCC A&H Subcommittee 2