

# American Sign Language Minor

## Goal: Establish Cultural Awareness Measure and Benchmark

### Goal Description:

WOLC’s Curriculum and Assessment Committee will explore cultural awareness measures for minor students in Deaf Studies. Using peer-reviewed research and best practices for American Sign Language and Deaf culture instruction, the committee will determine appropriate benchmark levels for students in the minor.

**Providing Department:** American Sign Language Minor

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**Learning Objective: Cultural Competence and Awareness**

**Learning Objective Description:**

While WOLC's Curriculum and Assessment Committee explores possible measures for evaluating cultural competence and awareness, the department will temporarily assess cultural awareness using a modified version of the Cross-Cultural Competence Inventory (3CI).

Testing Deaf Studies minors using the modified 3CI will help WOLC to establish an appropriate baseline for this newly created minor.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**Indicator: Cultural Competence and Awareness**

**Indicator Description:**

Prior to graduation, all graduating minors in Deaf Studies will take the modified 3CI.

**Criterion Description:**

3CI is a 63-item inventory rated on a 7-point Likert scale. The test is statistically reliable and measures cognitive, emotional, and behavioral aspects of cross-cultural behaviors.

**Findings Description:**

No DSSL minors completed the 3CI inventory in the 2023-2024 cycle, thus this metric will be moved forward to the next cycle. The WOLC assessment team identified an additional research paper that reported the internal validation procedure for the instrument. This process removed repetitive questions from the originally published inventory; the instrument that we will deploy in the 2024-2025 cycle consists of 46 items (a 27% reduction in length). The team anticipates that this will improve buy-in and compliance with the instrument.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**Action: Cultural Competence and Awareness**

**Action Description:**

The WOLC assessment team will proceed with the most recent version of this instrument, which reduced the inventory from 63 items to 46 (a 27% reduction in length). The instrument will be converted to a Qualtrics survey that will be deployed to a sample of graduating seniors. Based on the Fall 2025 compliance and outcomes, WOLC will determine the efficacy of expanding the testing pool in both number of students and language learning levels.

Attached Files

 [Finalized CCCI.pdf](#)

## Goal: Establish Signed Proficiency Measure and Benchmark

### Goal Description:

WOLC’s Curriculum and Assessment Committee will explore language proficiency testing for minor students in Deaf Studies. Using peer-reviewed research and best practices for American Sign Language instruction, the committee will determine appropriate benchmark levels for students in the minor. AVANT language testing has produced a new proficiency assessment that WOLC will pilot as soon as IT@Sam and the SHSU Testing Center make this test available.

**Providing Department:** American Sign Language Minor

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**Learning Objective: Signed Proficiency**

**Learning Objective Description:**

AVANT language testing has produced a new proficiency assessment that WOLC will pilot as soon as IT@Sam and the SHSU Testing Center make this test available.

Testing Deaf Studies minors using the AVANT test will help WOLC to establish an appropriate baseline for this minor.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**Indicator: Signed Proficiency**

**Indicator Description:**

Prior to graduation, a sample of 10% of graduating minors in Deaf Studies will take the AVANT assessment.

**Criterion Description:**

AVANT STAndards-based Measurement of Proficiency (STAMP) are adaptive, computer-based language proficiency assessments recognized by ACE. STAMP assessments use real-world language samples to evaluate learner language to align with internationally-recognized language proficiency standards.

**Findings Description:**

Due to extremely long delays in implementation, AVANT STAMP was not available to students during the previous cycle. This measure will be implemented in the next cycle with a sample of graduating seniors.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**Action: Signed Proficiency**

**Action Description:**

WOLC is THRILLED to report that AVANT STAMP is now an active test available on campus. We will organize assessment of a sample of graduating seniors, and these data will be reported at the end of the 2024-2025 cycle.

**Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item**

**Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):**

**Closing Summary**

- 1) Pilot test the Cross-Cultural Competence Inventory (3CI) with currently enrolled students to establish a benchmark and begin validating the measure.
- 2) Explore signed language proficiency testing options to replace the cost-prohibitive ASLPI (\$165-\$185 per test)

**Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:**

- 1) No DSSL minors completed the 3CI inventory in the 2023-2024 cycle. The assessment team discovered a newer version of the instrument that resulted from extensive internal validation of the 63-item instrument. The department will move forward with testing in the 2024-2025 cycle to establish a baseline and determine appropriate sample size for this instrument.

2) WOLC identified AVANT STAMP's new ASL test as an appropriate testing measure for ASL students. It reduces costs by at least 50%. This test was not implemented in the 2023-2024 cycle due to extremely long delays in implementation of the AVANT testing program.

## **New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item**

### **Closing Summary:**

After several challenging years for implementing assessment metrics, WOLC is confident that the department will be able to carry out a complete assessment of DSSL minors using the AVANT testing program and the reduced 3CI inventory. WOLC has established three goals for the 2024-2025 cycle for the DSSL minor program:

- Implement assessment of Cultural Competence using the internally validated version of the 3CI.
  - Deploy Qualtrics version of this instrument beginning in Fall 2024. Pending findings from the Fall 2024 assessment, determine whether to expand assessment to a larger pool of students and/or use the instrument to assess other aspects of the DSSL program (e.g., development of Cultural Competence over time, differences between online and in-person courses, etc...).
- Implement assessment of signed proficiency using AVANT testing program.
  - Deploy assessment to a sample of graduating seniors beginning in Fall 2024. Pending the findings from the Fall 2024 assessment, determine whether to expand proficiency assessment to a larger pool of students and/or use the instrument to assess other aspects of the DSSL program (e.g., development of proficiency over time, differences between online and in-person courses, etc...).
- Explore study away program opportunities for proposal in Summer 2025. This will include identifying collaborating institutions where students can be fully immersed in Deaf Culture. While this will not require foreign travel, the program will need to adapt to the needs of the growing DSSL minor population.