

American Sign Language Honor Society Charter

I. National Mission Statement

The American Sign Language Honor Society recognizes outstanding achievement of students studying American Sign Language to encourage language proficiency and life-long learning and enjoyment of this unique visual language.

II. Society Name & Purpose

1. Name

The name of this organization shall be the *American Sign Language Honor Society*, established under the auspices of the national American Sign Language Teacher's Association.

2. Purpose

The American Sign Language Honor Society inspires academic achievement in ASL studies, use of ASL in local community events, and fosters life-long enjoyment of visual language and culture by providing for opportunities to engage ASL students with the Deaf World and recognizing academic excellence. Academic recognition takes the form of official honor cords and the Alice Cogswell or Laurent Clerc Medals, and may be worn during graduation or induction ceremonies.

III. Membership

Chapters of the American Sign Language Honor Society may be established at schools that meet the following requirements:

1. Offer a minimum of two years' worth of ASL courses;
2. Have an ASL teacher (the "Sponsor") who is a member in good standing and remains in good standing of the American Sign Language Teacher's Association (ASLTA);
3. Annual chapter fees are kept current. Annual chapter fees are the following:
 - a. For post-secondary programs (community college, college, and university), one annual fee is paid regardless of the number of ASL teachers employed by the school. The fee is: **\$75.00**
 - b. For secondary / senior / high school programs, the annual chapter fee is based on the Honor Society Sponsor's ASLTA certification:
 - i. If the Honor Society sponsor does not possess any ASLTA certification, the fee is: **\$25.00**
 - ii. If the Honor Society sponsor possesses ASLTA Provisional certification, the fee is: **\$20.00**

- iii. If the Honor Society sponsor possesses ASLTA Qualified certification, the fee is: **\$15.00**
- iv. If the Honor Society sponsor possesses ASLTA Professional certification, the fee is: **\$10.00**

IV. Society Officers

Officers of the American Sign Language Honor Society shall include the following and serve for two-year terms:

- i. National Coordinator

Duties:

- a. Serve as liaison between the ASL Honor Society and ASLTA;
- b. Responsible for ASL Honor Society information presented in print or electronic format, including materials presented on the ASLTA web page.
- c. Award ASL Honor Society Scholarship funds in collaboration with the other officers

- ii. Membership Coordinator / Secretary-Treasurer

Duties:

- a. Receive and process application materials for new chapters of the ASL Honor Society;
- b. Maintain record of active / inactive chapters;
- c. Deposit chapter fees and maintain financial records;
- d. Issue ASL Honor Society Scholarship monies;
- e. Order graduation honor cords and Alice Cogswell / Laurent Clerc Medals.

- iii. Graduation Honors Coordinator

Duties:

- a. Receive and process graduation honors requests from established chapters, including eligibility;
- b. Mail all graduation honors to chapters in a timely fashion.

V. Society Officer Meeting

Officers of the American Sign Language Honor Society shall meet biennially at either the ASLTA National Conference or the ASLTA Professional Development Conference, as determined by the Honor Society officers.

VI. Honor Society Charter

- a. *Membership*

1. Membership in the American Sign Language Honor Society is open to any student studying ASL;
2. An ASL instructor in good standing of the American Sign Language Teacher's Association must sponsor each chapter of the ASL Honor Society;
3. Completion of the ASL Honor Society application form is required in addition to payment of the chapter fee.

b. Designation of Recognition & Honors

Recognition and honors sponsored by the American Sign Language Honor Society include the following:

Secondary / senior high / high school programs:

- a. Honor cords to be worn at graduation or induction ceremonies for students who meet the minimum eligibility requirements outlined below and have studied ASL for at least **two** years.
- b. The Laurent Clerc Medal to be worn at graduation or induction ceremonies for students who meet the minimum eligibility requirements outlined below and have studied ASL for at least **three** years.
- c. It is the responsibility of the sponsoring school, ASL Honor Society chapter, or student to provide payment for graduation honor cords / medals.
- d. Graduation honors costs: \$10.00 per honor cord; \$12.00 for the Laurent Clerc Medal.

Post-secondary programs:

- a. The Alice Cogswell Medal to be worn at graduation or induction ceremonies for students who meet the minimum eligibility requirements outlined below and have studied ASL for at least **two** years.
- b. The Laurent Clerc Medal to be worn at graduation or induction ceremonies for students who meet the minimum eligibility requirements outlined below and have studied ASL for at least **three** years.
- c. It is the responsibility of the sponsoring school, ASL Honor Society chapter, or student to provide payment for graduation medals.
- d. Graduation honors costs: \$12.00 for the Alice Cogswell Medal; \$12.00 for the Laurent Clerc Medal.

c. Eligibility for Society Recognition & Graduation Honors

The following eligibility requirements are the minimum as established by the ASL Honor Society. Individual chapters may revise these requirements as long as the minimum standards are maintained. The sponsoring school or ASL instructor is responsible for computing grade point eligibility for graduation honors. Note: ASL coursework is defined as the following: ASL language, ASL literature, Deaf culture, and Deaf history. Interpreter training courses do not fulfill ASL coursework requirements.

1. Graduation Honor Cords (secondary programs only)

Eligibility Requirements

- a. Students must complete a minimum of two years' worth of secondary / senior high / high school ASL study as defined by the following:
 - i. Four semesters of Level I and Level II (two semesters per year); or
 - ii. Six quarters of Level I and Level II (three quarters per year); or
 - iii. Two years of block scheduling of Level I and Level II (one year or term each).
- b. Students must possess an overall grade average of 3.5 / B+ in his / her ASL coursework.
- c. Students must possess an overall grade average of 3.2 / B in all other subjects.
- d. Students complete a minimum of 5 (five) hours of community service that benefits the Deaf community.

2. Alice Cogswell Medal (post-secondary program only)

Eligibility Requirements

- a. Students must complete a minimum of two years' worth of post-secondary ASL study as defined by the following:
 - i. Four semesters of Level I and Level II (two semesters per year) in a community college or four-year college or university; or
 - ii. Six quarters of Level I and Level II (three quarters per year) in a community college or four-year college or university.
- b. Students must possess an overall grade average of 3.5 / B+ in his / her ASL coursework.
- c. Students must possess an overall grade average of 3.2 / B in all other subjects.
- d. Students complete a minimum of 5 (five) hours of community service that benefits the Deaf community.

3. Laurent Clerc Medal (both secondary and post-secondary programs)

Eligibility Requirements

- a. Students must complete a minimum of three years' worth of ASL study as defined by the following:
 - iii. Six semesters of Levels I, II, and III (two semesters per year); or
 - iv. Nine quarters of Levels I, II, and III (three quarters per year); or
 - v. Three years of block scheduling of Levels I, II, and III (one year / term each).
- b. Students must possess an overall grade average of 3.7 / A- in his / her ASL coursework.
- c. Students must possess an overall grade average of 3.5 / B+ in all other subjects.
- d. Students complete a minimum of 10 (ten) hours of community service that benefits the Deaf community.

VII. Honor Society Forms

1. Secondary / senior high / high school chapter application (to be filled out by the sponsoring ASL teacher)
2. Post-secondary chapter application (to be filled out by the sponsoring department head or ASL teacher)
3. Graduation honors application (to request ASL Honor Society graduation or induction ceremony materials; form must be filled out by sponsoring ASL teacher)
4. ASL Honor Scholarship application form

VIII. Honor Society Sponsor Handbook (forthcoming by 2007)

VIV. Honor Society Committee Handbook (for ASLHS committee members)

1. Roles and responsibilities for:
 - a. National Coordinator
 - b. Membership Coordinator / Secretary-Treasurer
 - c. Graduation Honors Coordinator

2. Chapter database:
 - a. Application forms
 - b. Order forms
 - c. ASL Honor Scholarship form

3. Honor Society management:
 - a. Financial records
 - b. Membership records
 - c. ASL Honor Scholarship records
 - d. Cords & medals inventory