

## FIG-ASL 464 work experience

### Inquiry:



- Based on our observation of students, we recognized that many students were struggling to complete the work experience ASL 464 course.
- Our inquiry are there any strategies we can find that will help our students to complete the course 464 work experience in a strong ASL environment?

# Research Method:

We used the “snowball” survey for our former and current students who took ASL 464.

We got 21 responses out of 80 students. Some classes are canceled and it only offer once in a year thus is why number of students are low.

- 45% Part time student
- 40% Former student
- 10 % Full time student
- 5% Other
- 0% transfer student
- 0% graduate student



**RESEARCH**

## Findings:

Have you had any challenges trying to complete the requirements for ASL 464?

19 Responses

- 14 students replied Yes 73.7 %
- 5 Students replied No 26.3%
- 1 student replied other 5.3%



## ASL Background:

How would you rate your ASL comprehension/expressive skills when you began volunteering working at your placement site?  
Equivalent to completion of:

### Comprehension Skills:

18 responses

- 10 out of 18

#### ASL 52 Level 3

(intermediate signer)



- 6 out of 18  
ASL 53 Level 4  
(advanced signer)

- 2 out of 18 other

### Expressive signing skills:

19 responses

- 10 out of 19

#### ASL 52 Level 3



- 6 out of 19 ASL 53 Level 4

- 2 out of 19 others

- 1 out of 19

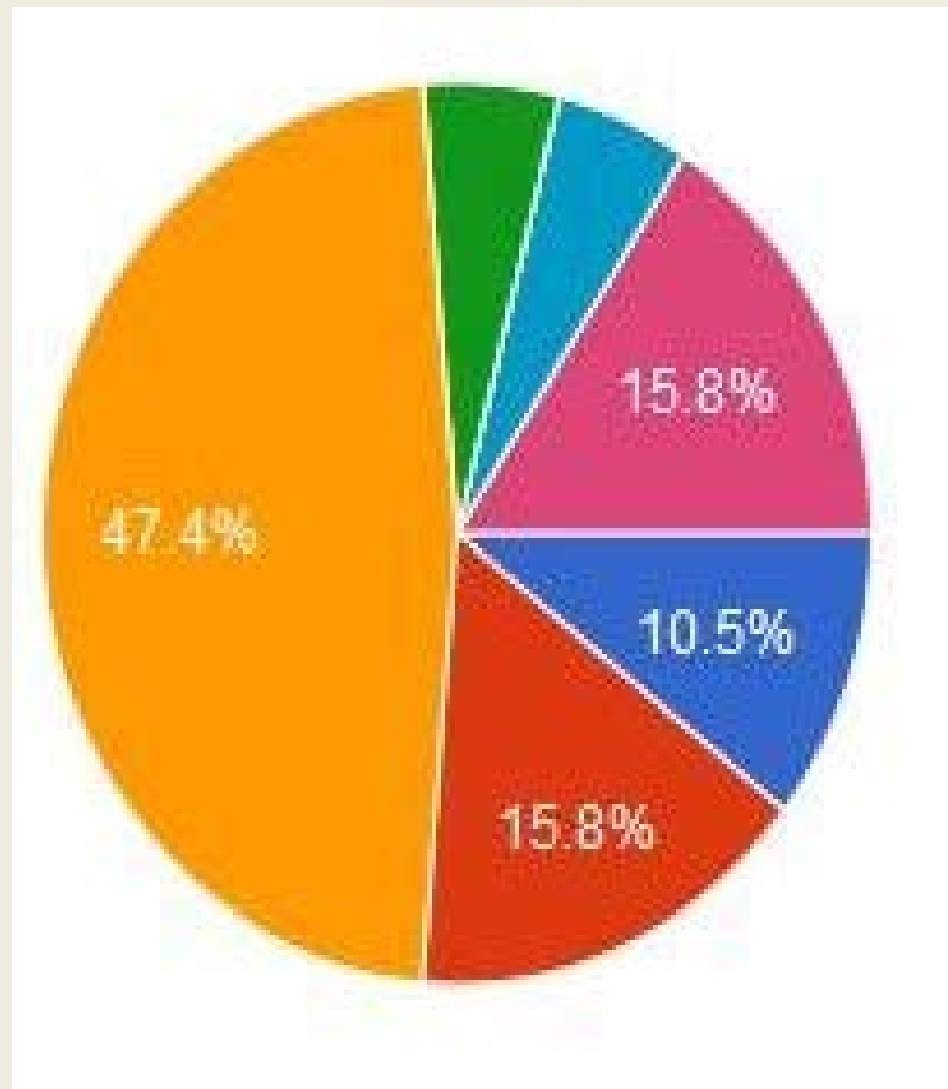
ASL 51 Level 2 (advanced beginning signer)

## Findings

What are the main challenges you have experienced with ASL 464?

19 responses out of 21

- **47.4%** (9) Difficulty finding a placement site
- 15.8% (3) Conflict with work schedule
- 15.8% (3) Others
- 10.5% (2) Conflict with school schedule
- 5.3% (1) Met work experience hours
- 5.3% (1) Transportation difficulties to/from placement site
- 0% Lengthy or difficulty application or background check procedures at placement site



# Findings



- 47.4% of the students said that they are having a difficulty finding a placement site to volunteer to complete the course requirement by using ASL with Deaf people.
- Because our ASL students are having a difficulty finding a placement sites to meet the **120 hours** of volunteering to maintain the exposure of ASL by interacting with Deaf people outside of the classroom.

## Findings:

Which of these following did you go for your work experience?

### 20 Responses

- 35% Others 7 out of 20 N/A
- 25% Deaf Counseling Advocacy and Referral Agency (DCARA) 5 out of 20
- 20% Teacher's assistant at BCC or another college 4 out of 20
- 5% Residential School for the Deaf 1 out of 20
- 5% Mainstreaming program for the Deaf 1 out of 20
- 5% Non-profit Deaf organizations 1 out of 20
- 5% ASL tutoring at BCC 1 out of 20

Results:



- Shows that not enough working sites not limit to DCARA

# Which type of work site benefited you as an ASL student? Please explain why.

Student responses vary: 17 Responses  
Summary:

- DCARA
- Deaf theater
- Educational with Deaf children-mainstream and residential schools
- Teacher Assistant
- Others N/A



Reason: DCARA: An opportunity to interact and communicate with Deaf people in American Sign Language.



Which type of work site did not benefit you as an ASL student? Please explain why.

Student responses vary: 13 responses

Summary:



- “Places where you are assigned to tasks by yourself and you're not able to practice and use ASL.”
- “ASL tutoring- doesn’t improve ASL skills or fully add to their experience with the language.”
- “Sites expected them to completely master in ASL by the time they arrive or sites lack use of ASL and use speech.”

**What other kinds of support** (such as online resources, an orientation, non credit class, workshop, training, etc.) would have benefited you or better prepared you for the work experience class?

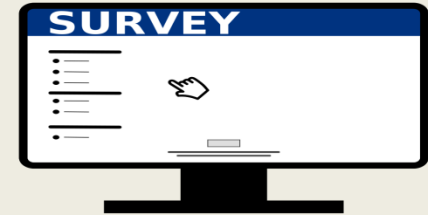
**Please explain with as much detail as possible, including non-ASL related supports.**

19 responses- Students answers vary  
Summary:

- Workshops
- Mentor training
- Practicum
- Job Fairs for placement site referrals
- Meeting every week to share their experience at their placement site for feedbacks, advices, and support.
- Accelerate refresher ASL classes that starts from ASL 1 to 4.
- Basic computer skills



# Process Ideas



- Mentoring and training program for supporting students to meet Deaf people.
- Collaborative to work with other organizations agencies to maintain student flow in volunteering at different various sites.



- Establish a workshops/fairs at Berkeley City College to provide students options placement sites to build good networking as well as along with ASL Department for our students to get possible referral for job placements.
- Plan to create another survey to be sent out to possible worksites to see if they will accept our ASL 464 students to volunteer.

# Overall *Summary* of finding

- ASL skills limited to ASL 3 (ASL 53)
- Difficulty find place
- Lack of support
- Lack basic skills service and worksite collaboration build relationship with BCC ASL Department to maintain student flow.
- Schedule Conflict



# Recommendations



Student practicum to provide support, guidance, feedback, meetings to share their experience for any improvements.



FIG report #6:

What ideas or areas of **possible future inquiry** does your inquiry suggest?

- Possible future inquiry: Our big question

Develop survey for worksite to accept our ASL students to volunteer work also to build a strong connection and network with (vary placement sites) for our future students to work there.

