

Jill Maudlin, *Director of Disability Advocacy*
James Baird, *Alumni Hall Senator*
Derick Williams, *Keough Hall Senator*
Megan Mikuen, *Off-Campus Senator*
Jessica Vickery, *Ryan Hall Senator*
Cate Porter, *Johnson Family Hall Senator*
Patrick Enochs, *Off-Campus Senator*
Mia Moran, *Farley Hall Senator*
Luca Ripani, *Pangborn Hall Senator*

**A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE
AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE IN NOTRE DAME UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS**

Whereas, the University of Notre Dame [requires](#) two years of a foreign language to be completed during high school for First-Year applicants;

Whereas, Notre Dame Undergraduate Admissions does not consider American Sign Language (ASL) a foreign language that fulfills this requirement;

Whereas, the rate of growth between 1991 and 2006 of four-year colleges and universities accepting ASL credit was 208% ([Rosen 11](#)). On this data, specific benchmarking is near impossible due to the lack of publicization of information about ASL on college websites;

Whereas, ASL has distinct grammar, syntax, and symbols, and Deaf culture is commonly considered a cultural and linguistic minority. ASL is the [fourth most commonly used language](#) in the United States and Canada by people whose primary language is English, and American Sign Language is commonly used at international events and is applicable outside of the United States;

Whereas, accepting ASL as a foreign language credit aligns with Notre Dame's Catholic mission of welcoming everyone with open arms, and the Church's teaching encourages accessibility for all;

Whereas, accepting ASL as foreign language credit would create a more inclusive campus for students, including students who are part of Deaf culture, in addition to creating an environment of equity and accessibility; therefore, be it

***Resolved*, by the Student Senate of the University of Notre Dame du Lac, that Notre Dame Undergraduate Admissions and the Center for the Study of Languages and Cultures collaborate to accept American Sign Language as a foreign language for high school applicants to the University of Notre Dame.**

Student Body President