



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

College of Education

The University of Arizona's Deaf Studies program is excited to announce that we have launched a course designed to introduce ASL students to the DeafBlind community. The course is titled: "Working with DeafBlind People".

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to DeafBlind individuals' unique communication needs and cultural experiences. Upon completion of this course, students will obtain a Support Service Provider (SSP) certification to give them employment opportunities.

Since the DeafBlind communities are growing in the State of Arizona, there is a great need for DeafBlind people to have additional SSPs. This will align with current objectives to expand services within this community.

Lisa Furr, a University of Arizona Deaf Studies and ASL faculty, worked with Andrew Cohen, who is a DeafBlind leader, to develop the course curriculum. Andrew brought his extensive experience as a DeafBlind person. He also possesses a wealth of knowledge and leadership as a founding member and president of the DeafBlind Retreat of Arizona (DBRAZ), DeafBlind Camp of Texas, and is a current commissioner on the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing.

In the Spring of 2025, the University of Arizona will be offering the course for the first time with Andrew and Lisa as co-instructors. Down the road, CEUs will be offered to interpreters and community members to receive SSP certificates.

Lisa would like to thank Dr. Holly Nelson, the Deaf Studies program director, for her support by working with the Disability and Psychoeducational Studies department chair to move forward with this initiative. Lastly, a big thank you to the University's curriculum committee for approving the course.

Be sure to look out for the course, SERP 433E- Working With DeafBlind People, to be printed in the University of Arizona's catalog in August of 2024!