

English as a Second Language

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Affiliated with the Department of English

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English as a Second Language

UWest's English as a Second Language (ESL) Program provides students with direct language instruction and support necessary to improve English proficiency for personal, professional, and academic purposes. Courses are offered across levels and skill areas to develop fluency through a comprehensive curriculum grounded in the language domains of speaking, listening, grammar, reading, conversation, pronunciation, and writing.

English for Academic Purposes (EAP) is integrated into the ESL curriculum to improve English skills necessary for collegiate success across core subject areas. Emphasis is placed on the following language domains: writing, reading, grammar, vocabulary, listening comprehension, fluency development, and oral intelligibility. Academic skills addressed include test- and note-taking skills, academic vocabulary usage, critical reading and writing, comprehending academic lectures, research and library skills, and formal composition forms and development, including research papers.

Instructors

UWest's ESL faculty hold advanced degrees in such fields as English, TESOL, linguistics, and cultural studies. Many also teach courses in general education and English, giving them insight into the academic needs of students who plan to pursue a degree at UWest or another American university.

Academic English Bridge

(Affiliated with the Department of English)

Academic English Bridge (Bridge) curriculum prepares students who have gained a solid foundation in English to transition to collegiate-level studies. Students master the writing, reading, and oral communication skills required for success in the college classroom while honing their critical and analytical thinking and basic research skills. While Bridge courses in the 100 series and above are credit-bearing college-level classes, applicability towards a degree is contingent on degree program requirements.

Upon completion of the ESL sequence, students advance to Bridge coursework. Bridge coursework is optional for students enrolled solely in the ESL program, and mandatory for any student who plans to enter a degree program at UWest upon completion of the ESL program. Bridge courses may also be assigned to incoming degree students based on UWest and prior assessment.

Students granted conditional admission to a degree program due to English proficiency may not advance to academic courses without successfully completing appropriate ESL and Bridge coursework. Students who wish to move from an ESL enrollment to a degree program must apply to the program of interest. The admission review will include a review of performance in ESL and Bridge courses and may require further testing. However, admission to a degree program is not guaranteed based solely on the completion of English language instruction at UWest.

Full-time enrollment for students placed in ESL courses is 20 hours per week. This includes four courses at the specified level and one elective course designed to support specific needs. Each Bridge course meets three hours per week. F-1 students must enroll in at least four Bridge courses or the equivalent of 12 units to maintain status.

English Placement Test (EPT)

All instruction at UWest is in English; therefore all students admitted to degree programs must demonstrate English proficiency. Applicants entering directly into the ESL program and those with TOEFL or IELTS scores that do not meet the minimum required for full admission to a degree program are required to complete an English Placement Test (EPT) to determine their appropriate level of instruction. Applicants educated in the US, including international applicants who have successfully completed three or more years at a college or university academic program where English was the primary language of instruction, are not commonly required to submit a TOEFL or IELTS score or to take the EPT.

The applicant's EPT score will determine if the applicant is placed in ESL or Academic English Bridge courses or passed directly to degree-level courses in the program of admission.

The EPT is offered during UDays, the week leading up to the first day of classes each term and on regularly scheduled testing days prior to UDays. There is a \$100 EPT test fee charged for students who request testing at any other time.

About the Exam

Section	Time	Description
Writing	30 minutes	Students write a short essay answering a question or prompt. A typical short essay will include an introduction, thesis statement, body that supports the thesis, and a conclusion.
Paper Test (100 Multiple Choice)	45 minutes	
Listening Comprehension	20 questions	Assesses understanding of spoken English. Students listen to and answer 20 multiple choice questions.
Grammar	30 questions	Assesses grammar knowledge. Students read short conversations and answer 30 multiple choice questions
Vocabulary	30 questions	Assesses vocabulary knowledge. Students read sentences and answer 30 multiple choice questions.
Reading Comprehension	20 questions	Assesses reading skills. Students read short passages and answer 20 multiple choice questions.
Oral Interview	5-10 minutes	Students are interviewed individually and asked three questions about a specific topic. Students have one minute to answer each question.

EPT Scores & Placement

The following scores are used to determine placement. Initially, the EPT score is the sole placement determinant. In subsequent terms, while the EPT score remains a factor in a student's progression, it is not the only factor. EPT scores must be supported by improved language proficiency as demonstrated by strong academic performance. Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.7 (B-) for all ESL and Bridge coursework to advance through the ESL/Bridge sequence.

EPT Score	1-12	13-26	27-40	41-54	55-68	69-74	75-79	Undergraduate 80 or higher	Graduate 80 – 85	Graduate 86 or higher
	Placement	ESL 020 Beginning	ESL 030 Intermediate	ESL 040 High Intermediate	ESL 050 Advanced	ESL 060 Upper Advanced	Bridge 090	Undergraduate: Bridge 100 Concurrent with Degree Courses Graduate: Bridge 100	Undergraduate: Degree Courses Graduate: Bridge 400 Concurrent with Degree Courses	Graduate: Degree courses

ESL Program Advancement

To advance through each level in the program, students must

- I earn a term grade point average of 2.7 (B-) to advance to the next level. Students who do not achieve a B- average must repeat all courses at that level until they meet the requirements for advancement to the next level.
- I pass all courses in the sequence. A student who fails (earns a grade of F) any given ESL course may not advance and will be required to repeat the same level until requirements for advancement to the next level are met.

With the English chair's approval, students may seek to advance more than one level by retaking the English Placement Test (EPT) at the end of the semester. However, it should be noted that students may be moved to a lower level based on the results of the retest.

ESL Attendance Policy

The ESL program is an intensive language learning program. To succeed, students must attend classes regularly and participate actively. Ninety percent (90%) attendance is required to receive a passing grade in any course.

Students who miss more than 10 hours of any ESL course during one semester without the instructor's approval may be dropped from the course. F-1 students who are dropped from a course fall below full-time status (defined as 20 hours per week for language training) which can lead to termination of the student's I-20. The international student advisor can answer questions regarding F-1 policies.

ESL Certificate of Completion

Full-time students enrolled in the ESL Certificate program will receive a certificate each semester upon the successful completion of all courses with an average grade of B- or better. A grade of F in any class will not allow a student to progress or to receive a certificate. Each certificate acknowledges completion of one semester of ESL courses at the specified level. ESL courses are neither degree-applicable nor do they count as academic credit.

Course Descriptions

English as a Second Language (Non-Credit)

Level 010 Introductory ESL

Entry-level ESL. No prerequisites.

ESL 011

Introduction to Reading Comprehension

Fundamental vocabulary and reading skills. Students learn how to read and understand short selections and practice the sounds and spelling of English.

ESL 012

Introduction to English Writing

Instruction in basic written English. Students have written practice in grammar, usage, punctuation, spelling, and simple sentence structure.

ESL 013

Introduction to English Grammar

Fundamental rules of usage, parts of speech, basic sentence structure, questions, short answers, negations, and functions of simple verb tenses. Instruction focuses on contextualized and basic communicative exercises.

ESL 014

Introduction to Speaking & Listening

Basic oral and listening comprehension skills through natural communication activities and authentic English presented in themes and dialogs.

Level 020 Beginning ESL

Prerequisite: Level 010 with minimum grade of B- or qualifying score on EPT

ESL 021

Beginning Reading Comprehension

Basic reading and vocabulary skills in American English. Students learn to read and understand short selections, and practice the sounds and spelling of English.

ESL 022

Beginning Composition

English sentence structure and basic paragraph development.

ESL 023

Basic Grammar

Acquisition of form, meaning, and usage of basic structures in English. Focus is on basics, such as sentence patterns, questions and short answers, pluralization, simple and continuous verb tenses, and parts of speech including pronouns and prepositions.

ESL 024

Beginning Speaking & Listening Skills

Builds communication skills through practice. Listening activities are thematically organized and provide practice in understanding and responding to spoken English. Students increase their conversational competence through exposure to authentic discourse and natural communication activities.

Level 030 Intermediate ESL

Prerequisite: Level 020 with minimum grade of B- or qualifying score on EPT

ESL 031

Intermediate Reading Comprehension

Introduces reading skills necessary to succeed in college classes. Focus is on high-interest reading selections with pre- and post-reading activities.

ESL 032

Intermediate Composition

Initial skills necessary to cope with the collegiate writing demands from paragraph development to basic essays.

ESL 033

Intermediate Grammar

Contextual approach to English grammar and sentence analysis. Includes syntactic structures, verb forms and tenses, types of nouns, the use of articles and determiners, gerunds, and infinitives.

ESL 034

Intermediate Speaking & Listening Skills

Oral communication through high-interest listening activities, pronunciation and intonation practice, and theme-based conversation that incorporates relevant aspects of American culture and customs. Introduces basic oral presentations.

Level 040 High-Intermediate ESL

Prerequisite: Level 030 with minimum grade of B- or qualifying score on EPT

ESL 041

High-Intermediate Reading Comprehension

Develop higher-level reading vocabulary and critical thinking skills necessary to become competent, independent, and actively involved readers. Course work includes critical reading exercises aimed at developing strategies that help readers approach texts independently and confidently.

ESL 042

High Intermediate Composition

Academic and creative essay writing. Emphasis is placed on editing and revision techniques for proper organization, structure, and style.

ESL 043

High Intermediate Grammar

Full verbal morphology, perfect tenses, modals, active and passive voice, the conditional, causative forms, and various types of subordinate clauses. Grammar is presented in meaningful contexts, approached analytically and synthetically, and practiced both orally and in writing.

ESL 044

High Intermediate Speaking & Listening Skills

Improves language competence and pronunciation through natural communication activities and authentic English input. Students engage in oral presentations and interview situations.

Level 050 Advanced ESL

Prerequisite: Level 040 with minimum grade of B- or qualifying score on EPT

ESL 051

Advanced Reading Comprehension

Improve academic reading skills needed for collegiate success, including a variety of English texts, such as magazine articles, short stories, and newspaper reports. Coursework includes oral presentation and discussion as well as writing tasks designed as pre-and post-reading activities. Weekly paced readings help students to increase their reading speed.

ESL 052

Advanced Writing

Preparation for college-level writing. Writing projects focus on organization and logical development and help the student acquire more sophisticated syntactic structures and vocabulary. Students improve grammatical accuracy and develop effective editing skills.

ESL 053

Advanced Grammar

Further development of language skills necessary for academic reading, writing and debate. Covers advanced grammatical concepts such as verb tense, modality, specificity, reference, number and agreement, as well as the different types of clauses used in English. Students identify, analyze, apply, and paraphrase more sophisticated grammatical structures.

ESL 054

Advanced Speaking & Listening

Improves listening and speaking ability for academic purposes through advanced listening and speaking exercises. Emphasis is placed on researched oral presentation, debates, and formulating critical questions and participating in classroom discussions.

Level 060 Upper Advanced ESL

Prerequisite: Level 050 with minimum grade of B- or qualifying score on EPT

ESL 061

Upper Advanced Reading Comprehension

Develops reading comprehension and vocabulary skills required for college success. Students read a variety of authentic academic texts including essays, research papers, reports, literature, etc. Practices reading fluency through analytical and critical reading for writing purposes. Helps students become more independent and invested in their college career.

ESL 062

Upper Advanced Writing

Develops collegiate composition skills by means of research-based writing. Emphasis is on developing MLA citation skills and their application to multiple paragraph essays, reports, summaries, and other academic texts. Students hone their understanding and use of structure, coherence, and rhetorical conventions.

ESL 063

Upper Advanced Grammar

Develops discourse grammar skills necessary for college-level reading, writing, and oral communication. Focus is on the development of fluency and accuracy of grammatical concepts such as tense and aspect system, clause structures, and modality.

ESL 064

Upper Advanced Speaking & Listening

Improves communicative competence skills for collegiate success with a focus on academic speaking and listening. Emphasis is on developing oral and aural fluency and accuracy by completing projects such as reports and speeches and by engaging in critical and analytical discussions reflective of college-level demands.

ESL Electives

ESL 035

American English Pronunciation

Prerequisite(s): instructor approval

Sounds, stress, intonation, and rhythm. Students improve their awareness of English pronunciation and learn how to monitor themselves. Coursework includes individual assessment, interactive exercises, songs and poetry, and recording assignments.

ESL 036

American Cultural Issues

Prerequisite(s): none

Fundamental English skills, including reading, vocabulary, listening, and speaking in an interactive environment. Students engage in discussion and relate contemporary political and social topics to their own lives. In addition, classes include cultural activities that incorporate film presentations and field trips for a better understanding of American language and culture.

ESL 037

Basic English Communication

Prerequisite(s): none

A low-intermediate multi-skills course designed to improve the English language fluency across language needs, with emphasis on oral and written communication skills.

ESL 038

Everyday Idioms and Slang

Prerequisite(s): none

Idioms, expressions, slang and word combinations in order to communicate more fluently and naturally in many everyday situations.

ESL 045

Conversation for English Language Learners

Prerequisite(s): level 030 with a minimum average grade of B- or qualifying score on EPT

Advanced oral communication skills to improve spoken fluency in academic, professional, and social settings.

ESL 046

American Culture: Los Angeles

Prerequisite(s): none

A multi-skills level course that blends language learning with Los Angeles history and cultural heritage.

ESL 047

TOEFL Preparation

Prerequisite(s): level 040 with a minimum average grade of B- or qualifying score on EPT

Designed to prepare students for the Internet-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (IBT TOEFL) and for success in an academic setting. Integrated skills approach to reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Academic vocabulary skills and academic culture are also included.

ESL 057

Storytelling

Prerequisite(s): none

Designed to develop English language skills, such as reading comprehension, vocabulary building, creative reading and creative written expression. Students are introduced to the diversity of fiction, poetry and drama in English and asked to produce their own creative work.

ESL 067

English Skills for College Success

Prerequisite(s): none

A multi-skills level course that develops language and academic skills necessary for a successful transition into American university.

Academic English Bridge Course Descriptions

90 Academic English Series

ENGL 90A

Academic Writing (3 units)

Prerequisite(s): Advancement from ESL or placement score

Prepares students for college-level composition. Focus includes writing from paragraph to essay, developing and organizing ideas, building unified and coherent compositions, and incorporating MLA citations and references.

Not degree applicable

Minimum passing grade: B-

ENGL 90B

Academic Speech (3 units)

Prerequisite(s): Advancement from ESL or placement score

Develops academic speaking skills. Students build skills required for success in the classroom, such as public speaking, fluency, intelligibility, and lecture and broadcast evaluation.

Not degree applicable

Minimum passing grade: B-

ENGL 90C

Academic Grammar (3 units)

Prerequisite(s): Advancement from ESL or placement score

Develops advanced discourse grammar skills necessary for success in college-level classes. Focus is on advanced grammatical concepts for academic writing.

Not degree applicable

Minimum passing grade: B-

ENGL 90D

Academic Reading (3 units)

Prerequisite(s): Advancement from ESL or placement score

Preparation for college-level reading. Focus includes critical and analytical reading skills for academic texts, information literacy skills for college writing, and academic vocabulary.

Not degree applicable

Minimum passing grade: B-

100 Academic English Series

100-level courses focus on specific academic English language competencies necessary for success at the undergraduate level. Courses may be applied to undergraduate elective requirements when applicable to program. The minimum passing grade for all 100 series courses is B-.

ENGL 100A

College Writing (3 units)

Prerequisite(s): ENGL 090A w/B or higher, or placement score

Essay writing for academic purposes. Building on ENGL 090A composition skills, students apply the writing process to organize and develop thesis-driven essays. Students practice effective expository writing incorporating outside sources and learn to develop arguments through multiple drafts.

Degree applicable upon approval

Minimum passing grade: B-

ENGL 100B

College Speech (3 units)

Prerequisite(s): ENGL 090B w/B- or higher, or placement score

Speaking and listening requirements to prepare students for the American college classroom. Emphasizes public communication and presentation skills in a variety of academic settings.

Degree applicable upon approval

Minimum passing grade: B-

ENGL 100D

College Reading (3 units)

Prerequisite(s): ENGL090D w/B- or higher or placement score

Preparation for college-level reading. Focuses on developing critical and analytical reading skills for vocabulary development, comprehension, and information literacy.

Degree applicable upon approval

Minimum passing grade: B-

ENGL 100G

College Grammar (3 units)

Prerequisite(s): ENGL090D w/B- or higher or placement score

COURSE DESCRIPTION HERE.

Degree applicable upon approval

Minimum passing grade: B-

English for Specific Purposes (ESP)

English for Specific Purposes provides working professionals and busy students with specific language instruction and support through a series of scheduled six-week modules with courses conveniently scheduled on evenings and weekends. The curriculum is designed to help students improve their English proficiency for personal, professional, and academic purposes.

Students may select courses focusing on special topics in spoken English, such as conversation skills, professional English, pronunciation and accent reduction, workplace communication, as well as a number of courses addressing the needs of small business owners. Courses prepare students to participate fully in the community and the workplace. The program also serves exchange students, undergraduates, and graduate students seeking to improve their written and spoken language proficiency.

This program is offered in 36-hour modules of intensive instruction. Each course meets three hours per session twice a week for six weeks. The program includes courses at the basic, intermediate, and advanced levels. Level tests are held one week prior to the start of the module so that students may select courses at the level that meets their needs.

American Conversation Practice

- ESP 020 Basic English Communication Practice
- ESP 021 Conversation Practice for Advanced Speakers
- ESP 022 In-Depth Discussion Practice
- ESP 023 Focus on Pronunciation & Accent Reduction
- ESP 024 Conversation for Everyday Use
- ESP 025 American Customs & Etiquette

ESP for Business

- ESP 040 Language for Business Negotiation
- ESP 041 Language Skills for Customer Service
- ESP 042 Language Skills for Service Industries

English Skills for Business Professionals

- ESP 051 English for Corporate Communication
- ESP 052 Executive Reading, Vocabulary, & Idioms
- ESP 053 Writing Skills for the Workplace
- ESP 054 Conversation for the Workplace
- ESP 055 English Skills for Small Business Owners

Test Preparation & Enrichment Courses

- ESP 070 Everyday Vocabulary
- ESP 071 Computer Literacy for English Language Learners
- ESP 072 Writing to Improve Communication Skills
- ESP 075 TOEFL Preparation
- ESP 076 TOEIC Preparation

Evening English for Specific Purposes (ESP) Course Descriptions

American Conversation Practice

ESP 020

Basic English Communication Practice

Basic level

Focuses on basic communication needs of basic-level English language learners. Focus of curriculum is in areas such as pronunciation, vocabulary, reading, writing, listening and speaking.

ESP 021

Conversation Practice for Advanced Speakers

High-intermediate to advanced

Builds fluency through discussion and conversation of a number contemporary issues.

ESP 022

In-Depth Discussion Practice

High-intermediate to advanced

In-depth discussion of current issues and topics to improve discussion strategies and management while developing fluency and content knowledge.

ESP 023

Focus on Pronunciation & Accent Reduction

Open to all levels

Improves pronunciation and accent skills for intelligibility; specific focus on consonant & vowel phonetic awareness, rhythm and intonation, and spelling-pronunciation relationships.

ESP 024

Conversation for Everyday Use

Intermediate to advanced

Practices familiar and practical daily topics to improve fluency and casual conversation skills.

ESP 025

American Customs & Etiquette

Open to all levels

Introduction to typical American customs and etiquette. Eases acculturation into daily life by understanding commonly accepted manners and acceptable social interaction.

ESP for Business

ESP 040

Language for Business Negotiation

Intermediate to advanced

Builds negotiation skills to improve business relations, professionalism, and effective communication in the workplace.

ESP 041

Language Skills for Customer Service

Intermediate to advanced

Develops customer service skills to enhance customer and employee relations.

ESP 042

Language Skills for Service Industries

Intermediate to advanced

Practical English language skills necessary for professional customer service, employee interaction, and merchant relations in service industries such as restaurants and hotels.

English Skills for Business Professionals

ESP 051

English for Corporate Communication

Intermediate to advanced

Develops communication skills in business English for use in the corporate environment.

ESP 052

Executive Reading, Vocabulary, & Idioms

Intermediate to advanced

Develops business speaking and reading ability for more professional communication and conversation.

ESP 053

Writing Skills for the Workplace

Open to all levels

Develops workplace writing skills order to improve communication, clarity, and professionalism.

ESP 054

Conversation for the Workplace

Intermediate to advanced

Practices workplace speaking skills to build fluency, confidence, and accuracy.

ESP 055

English Skills for Small Business Owners

High-intermediate to advanced

Builds a foundation of professional spoken and written skills to improve communication with employees and increase productivity and efficiency in the workplace.

Test Preparation & Enrichment Courses

ESP 070

Everyday Vocabulary

Open to all levels

Builds vocabulary for everyday use. Students develop their knowledge about and ability to use idioms, slang, and other common English terms.

ESP 075

TOEFL Preparation

Open to all levels

Test taking skills for each section of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): reading, listening, speaking, and writing.

ESP 071

Computer Literacy for English Language Learners

Open to all levels

Develops English and basic computer skills with activities and tasks that involve using computer technology.

ESP 076

TOEIC Preparation

Open to all levels

Test taking skills for each section of the Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC): reading, listening, speaking, and writing.

ESP 072

Writing to Improve Communication Skills

Open to all levels

Written communication organizational strategies to improve overall English communication.