English as a Second Language Program (ESL)

College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities
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www.uwlax.edu/english-as-a-second-language

English as a Second Language Institute
The English as a Second Language Institute offers a flexible program for non-native speakers of English. Classes are designed primarily for international students who need to improve or strengthen their English for studying at the university. The classes are also appropriate for persons who have a serious interest in studying English as a second language (ESL) for personal or business reasons.

Classes are offered at six levels of English proficiency. A student's level is determined by a proficiency test (the La Crosse Battery), which is given before classes begin.

Admission and placement into ESL classes (p. 1)
Retention in program (p. 2)

English language proficiency admission/placement policy
All international students who have official TOEFL scores below 5501 and all international students who have not taken the official TOEFL exam will be tested by the ESL Institute via the La Crosse Battery of exams during registration week prior to formal registration in classes. Students who submit TOEFL scores of 5501 or above will not be tested by the ESL Institute, will be exempt from the ESL classes, and will be granted full admission status. (Graduate program directors may also require graduate students with scores of 550 or above to take the La Crosse Battery placement exam. The full graduate ESL admissions policy is in the graduate catalog (http://catalog.uwlax.edu/graduate/admissions/#international-admission).)

Students who score 80 or above on the La Crosse Battery will be granted exemption from ESL classes and will receive full admission status. Students who receive a score of 79 or below on the La Crosse Battery will be given limited university status and will be placed in the appropriate ESL class levels.

Students who score a 79 or below on the La Crosse Battery placement exam are allowed to submit an official TOEFL score of 550 PBT (paper-based TOEFL), equivalent on CBT (computer-based TOEFL) or IBT (Internet-based TOEFL), or other UWL recognized standardized exam for unrestricted admission to the university. Students who achieve a 550 TOEFL (or equivalent) while enrolled in ESL courses will be required to wait until the beginning of the next term before being released from the ESL program.

Retention in program (p. 2)

La Crosse Battery
The La Crosse Battery consists of four tests: Test of Aural Comprehension, Michigan Test of English Language Proficiency (grammar, vocabulary, reading comprehension), the La Crosse Composition Test, and an oral interview. The La Crosse Battery takes approximately three hours to complete. These tests, which demonstrate a student's proficiency in each language skill, will determine the placement level per skill.

Students will be placed in levels that are appropriate with their placement score (see below). Students will progress through the program until they have earned at least a "C" in courses at the 250 level. Students will be required to complete courses at the 250 level before being released from the ESL program and being granted unrestricted access to degree programs at UW-La Crosse. Once students reach the 200 level ESL courses, they will be allowed to take ESL courses and 1-4 credits of UWL courses outside of ESL. Once students reach the 250 level ESL courses, they will be allowed to take ESL courses and 1-6 credits of UWL courses outside of ESL.

1 If students do not earn at least a "C" in their ESL courses at the 250 level, they will be required to retake the ESL courses during the next term. Students who fail courses at the 200 level and/or earn below a "C" at the 250 level, will only be allowed to take university courses outside of ESL based on the decision of the director of the ESL program.

Total average score - placement into ESL classes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total average score on La Crosse Battery</th>
<th>Classes/ESL levels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49 or below – limited university admission</td>
<td>050 sections of 100 level courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 - 59 – limited university admission</td>
<td>16 credits of ESL required (full-time ESL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 - 66 – limited university admission</td>
<td>16 credits of ESL required (full-time ESL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67 - 73 – limited university admission</td>
<td>16 credits of ESL required (full-time ESL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74 - 76 – limited university admission</td>
<td>150 level courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77 - 79 – limited university admission</td>
<td>Minimum of 12 credits of ESL required (allowed to take 1-4 university credits outside of ESL)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Comparable score is 73 on the Internet-based TOEFL exam for undergraduate students. Graduate students are required to have a 79 on the Internet-based exam. In lieu of a TOEFL score, a band score of 6 is acceptable on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam, or a score of at least 54 on the Pearson Test of English (PTE). Scores cannot be more than two years old.
Minimum of eight credits of ESL required (allowed to take 1-6 university credits outside of ESL)

80 or above – full university admission
Exempt from ESL (ESL courses optional)

### ESL Institute retention and probation standards

**Applies to ESL courses numbered 100-203.**

The academic status of an ESL-only student enrolled in pass/fail ESL courses is determined by successful completion of courses with a grade of pass (P). Performance at 80% is required for a grade of pass in ESL transcript credit only courses (ESL 100-203).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semesters in institute</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Academic standing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st semester</td>
<td>1-3 courses failed</td>
<td>Probation I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd semester</td>
<td>1-3 courses failed</td>
<td>Ineligible to continue¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Probation I)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd semester</td>
<td>1-3 courses failed</td>
<td>Ineligible to continue¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Probation II)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th semester</td>
<td>1-3 courses failed</td>
<td>Ineligible to continue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Probation II)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any Semester</td>
<td>F grades in all coursework</td>
<td>Ineligible to continue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ A student can choose to appeal an ineligible status to an ESL appeals committee (representation from the College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities/School of Visual and Performing Art Dean's Office, the ESL Institute and the Office of International Education). If the appeal is accepted and the student is reinstated, the student will be placed on Probation II. If the appeal is denied, the student can choose to appeal to the Committee on Academic Policies and Standards (CAPS). If CAPS denies the student's appeal, the student is no longer eligible to continue in the Institute. If reinstated by the CAPS committee, the student will be placed on Probation II.

If a student has been declared ineligible three times, the student may not appeal for reinstatement to the Institute.

Students who are enrolled only in ESL Institute courses are declared ineligible to continue at the university as well. Students who are enrolled in both ESL courses and university-level courses follow ESL retention standards for ESL courses and university retention standards for university-level courses.

### Intersession periods

Students who have not met the university's English language requirement will not be allowed to enroll in courses during the intersession periods (winter intersession and summer term sessions). Appeals to this policy will be handled on an individual basis.

### Courses

**ESL 100 Cr.4 ESL Speaking**

This course provides opportunities for students to practice speaking English in structured and semi-structured situations. Special attention is given to a limited set of functions (such as requesting, apologizing and complaining). Pronunciation work focuses on basic regularities of English pronunciation. Repeatable for credit - maximum eight. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and appropriate score on ESL placement test. (Transcript credit only. Does not count toward graduation. Performance at 80% is required for a grade of pass.) Pass/Fail grading. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

**ESL 101 Cr.4**

**ESL Reading**

Focus is on comprehension of reading passages with time limits and with understanding of main and supporting ideas. Students increase their passive vocabularies through the study of word formation and by learning to use an English-English dictionary. Reading skills such as skimming, scanning, prediction, use of context clues and recognizing thought groups are also stressed. Repeatable for credit - maximum eight. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and appropriate score on ESL placement test. (Transcript credit only. Does not count toward graduation. Performance at 80% is required for a grade of pass.) Pass/Fail grading. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

**ESL 102 Cr.4**

**ESL Writing/Grammar**

Focus is on the basics of writing: spelling, punctuation, paragraphing and simple organizational patterns. Writing includes controlled exercises and some free writing. Repeatable for credit - maximum eight. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and appropriate score on ESL placement test. (Transcript credit only. Does not count toward graduation. Performance at 80% is required for a grade of pass.) Pass/Fail grading. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

**ESL 103 Cr.4**

**ESL Listening**

This course gives students practice in understanding samples of spoken English of limited length and complexity and prepares students to understand segments of natural conversation on a variety of topics. Special attention is given to the various phonetic shapes that words can have. Repeatable for credit - maximum eight. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and appropriate score on ESL placement test. (Transcript credit only. Does not count toward graduation. Performance at 80% is required for a grade of pass.) Pass/Fail grading. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

**ESL 104 Cr.4**

**ESL Intensive Reading/Writing I**

This course develops reading, writing, vocabulary and grammar skills. The course is intended for high beginner students in English and for students with basic abilities in reading and writing. Seven-week course. Repeatable for credit - maximum eight. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and appropriate score on ESL placement test. (Transcript credit only. Does not count toward graduation. Performance at 80% is required for a grade of pass.) Pass/Fail grading. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

+ next to a course number indicates a general education course
ESL 107 Cr.4
ESL Intensive Listening/Speaking I
This course develops listening, speaking, pronunciation and vocabulary acquisition for use in daily life and the classroom. The course is intended for high beginner students with basic communication abilities. Seven-week course. Repeatable for credit - maximum eight. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and appropriate score on ESL placement test. (Transcript credit only. Does not count toward graduation. Performance at 80% is required for a grade of pass.) Pass/Fail grading. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

ESL 110 Cr.4
ESL Speaking
This course provides opportunities for students to prepare and give speeches/oral presentations. Students also gain a greater ability to use informal, conversational English. Special attention is given to language function, pronunciation, and intonation. Repeatable for credit - maximum eight. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and appropriate score on ESL placement test and/or successful completion of ESL 100. (Transcript credit only. Does not count toward graduation. Performance at 80% is required for a grade of pass.) Pass/Fail grading. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

ESL 111 Cr.4
ESL Reading
This course provides opportunities for students to develop their reading skills in meaningful ways, enabling them to use academic texts outside of class successfully. Focus will be on reading skills such as summarizing, paraphrasing, skimming, scanning, making inferences, and distinguishing between different purposes for reading. Repeatable for credit - maximum eight. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and appropriate score on ESL placement test and/or successful completion of ESL 101. (Transcript credit only. Does not count toward graduation. Performance at 80% is required for a grade of pass.) Pass/Fail grading. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

ESL 112 Cr.4
ESL Writing/Grammar
Focus is on improving students’ ability to write convincing English paragraphs and essays with greater fluency. The basics of writing are reviewed. Repeatable for credit - maximum eight. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and appropriate score on ESL placement test and/or successful completion of ESL 102. (Transcript credit only. Does not count toward graduation. Performance at 80% is required for a grade of pass.) Pass/Fail grading. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

ESL 113 Cr.4
ESL Listening
This course introduces students to English used in an educational context. Emphasis is on note taking by listening to short lectures. Conversational English listening skills are also studied including topics such as guessing meaning from context, stressed words, and understanding fast English. Repeatable for credit - maximum eight. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and appropriate score on ESL placement test and/or successful completion of ESL 103. (Transcript credit only. Does not count toward graduation. Performance at 80% is required for a grade of pass.) Pass/Fail grading. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

ESL 116 Cr.4
ESL Intensive Reading/Writing II
This course develops reading, writing, vocabulary and grammar skills. The course is intended for intermediate level students with some ability in reading and writing but with limited vocabulary and range of expression. Seven-week course. Repeatable for credit - maximum eight. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and appropriate score on ESL placement test and/or successful completion of ESL 106. (Transcript credit only. Does not count toward graduation. Performance at 80% is required for a grade of pass.) Pass/Fail grading. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

ESL 117 Cr.4
ESL Intensive Listening/Speaking II
This course develops listening, speaking, pronunciation and vocabulary acquisition for use in common social situations and the classroom. The course is intended for intermediate level students with some communication ability but with limited vocabulary and range of expression. Seven-week course. Repeatable for credit - maximum eight. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and appropriate score on ESL placement test and/or successful completion of ESL 107. (Transcript credit only. Does not count toward graduation. Performance at 80% is required for a grade of pass.) Pass/Fail grading. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

ESL 150 Cr.4
ESL Speaking/Listening
Special attention is given to communication strategies - developing ways to communicate when pronunciation or vocabulary limitations make communication difficult. Prepares students for academic lectures by introducing standard forms of organization and common transition signals used in America. Pronunciation work emphasizes stress and intonation and problems of individual students. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and appropriate score on ESL placement test and/or successful completion of ESL 100. (Transcript credit only. Does not count toward graduation. Performance at 80% is required for a grade of pass.) Pass/Fail grading. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

ESL 151 Cr.4
ESL Reading
Focus is on drawing inferences from a reading, recognizing paraphrase, identifying the author's point of view, and using knowledge of the structure of readings to aid comprehension. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and appropriate score on ESL placement test and/or successful completion of ESL 111. (Transcript credit only. Does not count toward graduation. Performance at 80% is required for a grade of pass.) Pass/Fail grading. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

ESL 152 Cr.4
ESL Writing/Grammar
Focus is on a variety of organizational patterns, with review of the basics of writing. Students are introduced to elements of the writing process, including prewriting, revision and editing. Reviews and adds to students' skills of basic structures, emphasizing increasingly complex structures, with attention to form, meaning and use. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and appropriate score on ESL placement test and/or successful completion of ESL 112. (Transcript credit only. Does not count toward graduation. Performance at 80% is required for a grade of pass.) Pass/Fail grading. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.
ESL 153 Cr. 4

U.S. Culture Today
This course gives students an understanding of the United States from practical and sociological perspectives. Reading, writing, listening, and speaking activities focus on information about daily life, values, beliefs, and social problems. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and/or appropriate score on ESL placement test and/or successful completion of ESL 113. (Transcript credit only. Does not count toward graduation. Performance at 80% is required for a grade of pass.) Pass/Fail grading. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

ESL 155 Cr. 1-16

Special Topics in ESL
These courses are designed for special or contract groups in need of intensive English for non-academic purposes. Listening, reading, speaking, writing and cultural activities will be stressed, according to group needs. Each program-design could be for 1-16 institute credits - according to contractual agreements and amount of intensive English required. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and/or appropriate score on ESL placement test. (Transcript credit only. Does not count toward graduation. Performance at 80% is required for a grade of pass.) Pass/Fail grading. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

ESL 156 Cr. 4

ESL Intensive Reading/Writing III
This course develops academic reading and writing skills of high-advanced level students. Seven-week course. Repeatable for credit - maximum eight. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and appropriate score on ESL placement test and/or successful completion of ESL 116. (Transcript credit only. Does not count toward graduation. Performance at 80% is required for a grade of pass.) Pass/Fail grading. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

ESL 157 Cr. 4

ESL Intensive Listening/Speaking III
This course is designed to help students gain confidence in their listening and speaking skills in academic settings as well as in conversation. Focus will be on developing academic vocabulary, critical thinking skills and honing research and organization skills necessary for delivering formal presentations. Attention will be given to analyzing the audience and tailoring a speech for a specific purpose. In addition, this course highlights strategies for successful listening techniques such as predicting, evaluating information and recognizing organizational cues. Seven-week course. Repeatable for credit - maximum eight. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and appropriate score on ESL placement test and/or successful completion of ESL 117. (Transcript credit only. Does not count toward graduation. Performance at 80% is required for a grade of pass.) Pass/Fail grading. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

ESL 201 Cr. 4

ESL Reading
Emphasis is on reading for academic purposes. Students work on comprehension of academic reading selections, as well as challenging non-academic material. Students work on tone and distinguishing fact from opinion. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and appropriate score on ESL placement test and/or successful completion of ESL 151. (Transcript credit only. Does not count toward graduation. Performance at 80% is required for a grade of pass.) Pass/Fail grading. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

ESL 202 Cr. 4

ESL Writing/Grammar
Emphasis is on writing as a process of thinking, planning, writing and rewriting. Increased emphasis is placed on writing for academic purposes. Reviews and adds to students' repertoire of structures with increased emphasis on the verb phrase and on control of grammar in writing. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and appropriate score on ESL placement test, and/or successful completion of ESL 152. (Transcript credit only. Does not count toward graduation. Performance at 80% is required for a grade of pass.) Pass/Fail grading. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

ESL 203 Cr. 4

ESL Lecture/Note Taking
This course is designed to prepare students for college-level listening challenges. Students are introduced to a variety of academic lectures via different media. Students learn strategies for effective note-taking. Prerequisites: non-native speakers of English and appropriate score on ESL placement test, and/or successful completion of ESL 153. (Transcript credit only. Does not count toward graduation. Performance at 80% is required for a grade of pass.) Pass/Fail grading. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

ESL 206 Cr. 4

ESL Intensive Reading/Writing IV
This course develops academic reading, writing, and research skills of advanced students who are interested in undergraduate or graduate programs in the United States or other English-speaking countries. Seven-week course. Repeatable for credit - maximum eight. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and appropriate score on ESL placement test and/or successful completion of ESL 156. (Transcript credit only. Does not count toward graduation. Performance at 80% is required for a grade of pass.) Pass/Fail grading. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

ESL 207 Cr. 4

ESL Intensive Listening/Speaking IV
This course develops academic listening and speaking skills for advanced level students who are interested in undergraduate or graduate study in the United States or other English-speaking countries. Seven-week course. Repeatable for credit - maximum eight. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and appropriate score on ESL placement test and/or successful completion of ESL 157. (Transcript credit only. Does not count toward graduation. Performance at 80% is required for a grade of pass.) Pass/Fail grading. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

ESL 226 Cr. 4

ESL Intensive English for a Successful University Experience
This course prepares students for a successful university experience. Focus will be on writing summaries, critiques, and synthesis; study skills, group work, testing taking strategies, research writing, university culture/expectations. Seven-week course. Repeatable for credit - maximum eight. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and appropriate score on ESL placement test and/or successful completion of ESL 206. (Transcript credit only. Does not count toward graduation. Performance at 80% is required for a grade of pass.) Pass/Fail grading. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.
+ESL 250 Cr.4

**ESL Speaking**
Focus is on strategies and techniques for success in academic classes, including formal and informal oral discourse patterns needed for American classes. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and/or appropriate score on ESL placement test and/or successful completion of ESL 200. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

+ESL 251 Cr.4

**U.S. Culture and Film**
Focus is on development of listening, speaking, reading and cultural understanding through the medium of American movies, television and related articles. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and/or appropriate score on ESL placement test. Offered Spring.

+ESL 252 Cr.4

**ESL Writing/Grammar**
Focus is on skills needed at every stage of the writing process: finding a topic, determining an approach to the topic, assessing the audience, planning and drafting a coherent composition, revising and editing. Students learn to adapt their writing to the American audience and topic and to look at their own writing critically. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and/or appropriate score on ESL placement test and/or successful completion of ESL 202. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

+ESL 253 Cr.4

**ESL Research Paper**
This course is designed to prepare students for college-level reading and writing challenges. It introduces students to the kind of writing that they are likely to encounter throughout their college career: summarizing, paraphrasing, critiquing, and synthesizing. The course reviews the process of research-gathering materials, selecting sources, and arranging information. Students will learn how to use and cite sources. Drafting, revising, and proofreading skills will be developed. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and appropriate score on the ESL placement test and/or successful completion of ESL 202. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.

ESL 255 Cr.1-16

**Special Topics in ESL**
Focus for these content-based courses in ESL is on strategies and techniques for success in academic classes, including vocabulary development, lecture comprehension, textbook reading, note and test-taking. Topics may vary by semester and may be offered as adjunct courses to those in the regular university curriculum. Repeatable for credit - maximum 16. Prerequisite: non-native speakers of English and/or appropriate score on ESL placement test. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer.