

English as a Second Language

Levels and Classes

LEVELS

LEVEL I: ENGL101 Introduction to the English Language (Basic)

This level introduces students to practical, everyday English and provides a foundation for learners who are completely new to the study of the English language. In addition to classroom instruction and the Rosetta Stone language program in the language laboratory, students engage in activities which provide experience in taking a taxi, going grocery shopping, writing personal letters, introducing and talking about themselves, as well as readings signs, filling out forms and following simple instructions in an environment where English is the primary language. There is no prerequisite to this course.

LEVEL II: ENGL102 Conversational English (Elementary)

This level is designed for individuals who are not new to the study of English. It reinforces familiar concepts and builds on these to increase students' ability to function confidently in English-speaking societies. Students are given opportunities to explore English through written projects, role play and oral presentations. Prerequisites: ENGL101 Introduction to the English Language, an appropriate score on the English Placement Test, demonstrated ability, or equivalent qualification as evidenced by documentation.

LEVEL III: ENGL103 Introduction to Academic English (Intermediate)

At this level, students are introduced to more formal English in order to increase their ability to function adequately in a university classroom or an office where English is the language of interaction. Students explore essay writing and oral presentations (individual and group) through projects and assignments. Prerequisites: ENGL102 Conversational English, an appropriate score on the English Placement Test, demonstrated ability, or equivalent qualification as evidenced by documentation.

LEVEL IV: ENGL104 Academic English Proficiency (Advanced)

Students entering this level are expected to have a good command of the English language and are given opportunities to further explore the language in order to overcome persisting challenges. Focus is placed on accuracy of speech, interactive listening skills, writing efficiency and reading comprehension, and students are encouraged to develop tools and strategies to continue their development on their own. There is a strong emphasis on functioning within a university classroom, and students are allowed to register for one (1) university course at this level. Prerequisites: ENGL103 Introduction to Academic English, an appropriate score on the English Placement Test, demonstrated ability, or equivalent qualification as evidenced by documentation.

Advanced Performance in Academic English

NOTE: This course may be considered a Level V, but is optional.

This course is open to non-native speakers of English who want to improve their skills in reading, writing, and conversation. Students entering this level are expected to have a high-intermediate or advanced command of the English language. This course is designed for individuals who are already enrolled (or plan to enrol) in university or who are employed in environments where English is the language of interaction. Focus is placed on identifying students' challenges and providing tools and strategies to improve their performance. Preparation for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is included in this course. TOEFL is an internationally recognized, standardized test that measures a student's ability to use and understand English at the university level. Prerequisite: ENGL104 Academic English Proficiency, an appropriate score on the English Placement Test, demonstrated ability, or equivalent qualification as evidenced by documentation.

CLASSES

At each of the four levels of the certificate program, students take 5 classes. A brief description of each class is provided below. At the TOEFL preparation level, students are engaged in a variety of experiences as they follow the TOEFL preparation guide. Classes at that level, therefore, are not currently structured according to skills.

Section 01 Reading Skills Strategies

In this class, students are exposed to a variety of level-appropriate written texts, including stories, articles, poems, and essays. Special emphasis is placed on improving vocabulary and reading comprehension.

Section 02 Standard Writing Formats

This class exposes students to the various skills required to produce coherent and purposeful written messages. Special emphasis is placed on sentence construction, use of punctuation, expression of ideas and opinions, and conveying meaning.

Section 03 Approaches to Grammar and Usage

The focus in this class is on the grammatical structure of the English language. Students are taught a variety of structural rules and guidelines which govern the composition of clauses, phrases, and words in English.

Section 04 Oral Communicative Activities

In this class, students are given opportunities to express themselves through speaking while they learn about the various conventions which govern oral presentations and conversation. Special emphasis is placed on pronunciation, articulation, and coherence.

Section 05 Interactive Listening Strategies

Students are given many opportunities to improve their understanding of spoken English in this class. Particular attention is placed on awareness of the linguistic and organizational features of spoken discourse.