

English as a Second Language

How is the program structured?

Our new Intensive ESL program is designed to give students maximum exposure to the English language. The courses offered at the Low Intermediate, High Intermediate, and Advanced levels are Academic Speaking/Listening, Grammar, Academic Writing, and Academic Reading. In addition, students are expected to participate in the American Culture and Language Immersion class each term they are enrolled in the Intensive ESL program. Undergraduate students are also expected to complete ESL 4230: Academic ESL Writing, which meets the Communication — Goal 1 for general education graduation requirements, in place of WRT 1020: College Composition II.

How much do ESL courses cost?

For full time students, the Intensive ESL program may be taken as a 16-semester-hour block (with 20 classroom hours per week) for \$4,000 per term. Individual ESL courses can be taken for \$375 per semester hour for matriculated students. For local students not enrolled in a degree program, ESL may be taken as non-credit, for continuing education purposes. For these students, the cost is \$243 per semester hour. For all ESL students, credit and non-credit, the 4-hour American Culture and Language Immersion class on Fridays is also included.

Can I get a visa to study ESL only?

Yes. Madonna University can issue I-20s for our Intensive ESL program. Students on F1 visas must study full time.

Are ESL courses “for credit?”

Up to 19 semester hours of ESL may count toward the 120 hours necessary for a bachelor’s degree. The classes that may count toward the degree are ESL 4010, ESL 4020, ESL 4030, ESL 4040, and ESL 4230. Academic ESL Writing (ESL 4230) fulfills the general education writing requirement for ESL students in place of WRT 1020: College Composition II.

May I take other classes along with ESL?

For students in the Advanced level (4000) of ESL, other courses may be taken concurrently with ESL courses with the permission of students’ advisors.

How many ESL courses do I have to take?

It depends on the results of the Madonna University English Placement Exam. Some students may be exempt from ESL, or may only have to take a few classes. Other students may be required to take all levels of the program.

Are ESL courses offered year round?

ESL courses are always offered during fall and winter terms. If enrollment permits, some courses may also be offered during the Spring/Summer term.

Are ESL class grades calculated into my GPA?

Yes.

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Do I need TOEFL to be admitted to Madonna University?

No. However, if you do have a TOEFL score of 540/76 or 550/80, you may be admitted to an undergraduate or graduate program, respectively, as ESL-exempt. You may also submit a qualifying MELAB or IELTS score, or proof of completion of Level 12 of English Language Centers' (ELS) intensive program. If you have completed at least four years of high school in the U.S.; or have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in the U.S., the U.K., Canada, Ireland, Australia, or New Zealand; or have at least 24 transferable, non-ESL, credits from an American college or university, you may also be regularly admitted and ESL-exempt. If you do not meet any of these criteria, you will be required to take Madonna University's English Placement Exam. Students receiving a high enough score on the Exam will be ESL-exempt; others will be required to take ESL courses determined by their Placement Exam score.

Do I need a writing test?

If you take the paper-based TOEFL, you also need to take the Test of Written English. The minimum TWE score for ESL exemption is 5. Students who take the Madonna University English Placement Exam will be tested on writing, as well as grammar, reading, listening, vocabulary and speaking.

Is tutoring provided?

Yes. The [Writing Center](#), the [Center for Personalized Instruction](#), and the [Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs](#) all offer various workshops and tutoring programs.

What activities are offered?

Various activities, both social and academic, will be included as a part of the American Language and Culture Immersion class. Other events are arranged by the International Student Office. ESL students are also welcome to participate in any campus organization or activity.

Where are the students from?

Our ESL students come from countries around the world. Each term is different, but presently we have students from Cote d'Ivoire, Korea, Poland, India, Egypt, Algeria, Vietnam, China, Spain, Japan, Kenya, Nigeria, Latvia, Lebanon, and Thailand.