

English as a Second Language

ESL courses may be taken as individual skills courses, or as a block schedule of full-time, Intensive ESL. Enrollment in the full-time program constitutes 20 classroom hours per week of instruction. Individual skills courses meet 4 hours per week. Enrollment in any course includes free registration in the American Language and Culture Immersion class.

ESL 2010: Low Intermediate Academic Speaking/Listening

This course focuses on beginning formal speaking, and sustained factual listening. Short speeches will be reviewed and critiqued. Pronunciation practice is an integral part of the preparation for speech delivery. Colloquial versus formal language will be examined.

ESL 2020: Low Intermediate Academic Reading

This course focuses on acquiring a high-frequency general academic vocabulary. Increasing paragraph reading comprehension will be emphasized, as well as expanding dictionary skills.

ESL 2030: Low Intermediate Academic Writing

This course focuses on expanding sentence structure and paragraph construction, including unity, coherence, and transitional phrases.

ESL 2040: Low Intermediate Academic Grammar

This course focuses on the development of existing knowledge of grammar structures and acquisition of new ones. Emphasis is on the use of simple and some complex verb tenses, as well as auxiliary and modal verbs. These and other grammatical structures are practiced through the performance of common language functions, such as making suggestions, requests, and invitations.

ESL 3010: High Intermediate Academic Speaking/Listening

This course focuses on continued development of listening and speaking skills in conversational and academic settings. Word stress, connected speech, intonation, and rhythm will be covered. Discussions and presentations will include topics encountered in general education courses, and in the world at large.

ESL 3020: High Intermediate Academic Reading

This course focuses on transiting from ESL texts to authentic general education materials. Instruction in various reading strategies to increase reading comprehension will be included. Acquiring a low-frequency general academic vocabulary is emphasized.

ESL 3030: High Intermediate Academic Writing

This course introduces the stages of the academic writing process. It focuses on expanding the knowledge of organizational patterns used in writing compositions and paragraphs. Integrated readings serve as models for the principal parts of compositions, with focus on coherence and unity.

ESL 3040: High Intermediate Academic Grammar

This course integrates reading and rhetoric to identify key structures and grammar rules that govern them. Focus will be on the use of complex tenses as well as the formation and manipulation of clauses in complex sentences and the sequence of verb tenses across clauses.

ESL 4010: Advanced Academic Speaking/Listening

This course prepares the students for the demands of academic lecture comprehension and note-taking, as well as predicting, evaluating, and organizing academic lectures. Formal academic speeches pertinent to students' major disciplines are practiced and critiqued with a focus on structure, delivery, and comprehensibility. Continuing work with pronunciation, including word stress, connected speech, intonation, and rhythm, will be covered.

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ESL 4020: Advanced Academic Reading

This course utilizes authentic content-specific academic and literary readings. Current articles of political, economic, and sociological importance, taken from journals and periodical literature, are read, analyzed, and written about. Morphological analysis and context clues are used to construct the meaning of unknown words. There is also a focus on discipline-specific vocabulary.

ESL 4030: Advanced Academic Writing

This course includes extensive practice in rhetorical structures and verb tenses. There is also a focus on writing various types of academic essays (descriptive, comparison, cause, and effect, problem and solution, persuasive), using the writing process.

ESL 4040: Advanced Academic Grammar

This course covers the study and analysis of the grammatical structures and their rhetorical functions within contemporary academic and literary prose. Focus on the use of passive voice, past modals, unreal conditionals, and subjunctives.

ESL 2010, 3010, 4010: Lab American Culture and Language Immersion

This immersion experience is a component of the Intensive Academic English Program. Attendance is required for all students enrolled in three or more Intensive ESL courses. It combines academic instruction and activities (writing, presentations, discussions, readings) with cultural enrichment (films, collaborative projects and activities with domestic students, service learning, cultural activities).

ESL 4230: Research Paper Writing

Focus on writing a research paper from organization to completion, with a segment on plagiarism. Both MLA and APA Style are introduced, as are techniques on how to incorporate sources into the body of the paper. In addition to the research paper, students write abstracts, research proposals, and a reflection paper. All drafts and copies of courses are presented in a portfolio. This course is considered to be the equivalent of WRT 1020: College Composition II. It therefore fulfills the General Education Requirement for WRT 1020.