

English as a Second Language (ESL)

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Program Description

The Dixie State University English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESL) program serves the needs of both international and residential students for whom English is not a native language. The program is divided into four levels:

- Introductory
- Basic
- Intermediate
- Advanced

Students enter the program at the level indicated by their prerequisite test scores. Students earn college-level (1000 and 2000) credit for some classes in the Intermediate and Advanced levels.

The DSU ESL program focuses on five skills areas students need to be successful students at an English-speaking college:

- Academic Communication
- Conversation
- Reading
- Writing
- Grammar

Course Prefix

- ESL

Advancing through the ESL Program

- Students entering the ESL program must take courses at the level of their initial placement (Intro, Basic, Intermediate or Advanced).
- Students must pass courses with a B or higher grade before moving to the next level of each subject (e.g., a student must receive at least a B grade in Intermediate Grammar before moving up to Advanced Grammar).
- To exit the ESL program, students need to achieve a B grade or higher in Advanced Reading (ESL 2700), Advanced Writing (ESL 2750), and Advanced Grammar (ESL 2760).
- Once a student has formally exited the program, taking further ESL courses cannot be accepted as making progress towards a degree as defined by F-1 Visa requirements.
- Students may earn an ESL Certificate of Proficiency (Intermediate and Advanced) (<https://humanities.dixie.edu/esl/certificate-of-english-proficiency>).

Exiting the ESL program

Students entering the ESL program must take courses at the level of their initial placement (Intro, Basic, Intermediate or Advanced). Students must pass courses with a B or higher grade before moving to the next level of each subject (e.g., a student must receive at least a B grade in Intermediate Grammar before moving up to Advanced Grammar).

To exit the ESL program, students need to achieve a B grade or higher in Advanced Grammar (ESL 2760), Advanced Reading (ESL 2700), and Advanced Writing (ESL 2750). Students who have exited the ESL program can no longer take ESL courses to satisfy progress towards a degree or satisfy foreign language credit requirements.

After successfully completing the ESL program, English Language Learners should be able to function communicatively as members of the Dixie State University community according to these Student Learning Outcomes:

1. In academic reading, students will be able to comprehend most standard English texts and implement strategies for comprehending what is not immediately understood. At mastery, students should be able to read at the Advanced-Mid Level as described in the ACTFL guidelines.
2. In listening comprehension, students will be able to understand standard English spoken in and out of the classroom and implement strategies for effective note-taking for specific academic material. By mastery, students will be able to achieve an Advanced-Mid Level of listening ability as described in the ACTFL guidelines.
3. In speaking, students will be able to appropriately respond orally to the demands of college life and college-level classes, including giving classroom responses, speeches and presentations. At mastery, students will be able to speak at the Advanced-Low level as defined by the ACTFL guidelines.
4. In writing, students will be able to produce appropriately clear and coherent responses to in-class or extended assignments. At mastery, students will be able to write at the Advanced-Low level as defined by the ACTFL guidelines.
5. In academic awareness, students will understand and demonstrate appropriate student behavior and ethics in American university classrooms. Students will be able to show understanding of 1) the expectations of appropriate classroom behavior and interaction, both between student and professor and among peers, and 2) university policies on plagiarism and cheating.

General Education Foreign Language

For the purposes of earning credit in DSU foreign language classes and/or fulfilling any DSU foreign language requirement, a native speaker's primary language of instruction at the high school level (as determined by the chair of the Humanities Department) is his/her native language. Nonnative English speaking students can fulfill the General Education Foreign Language requirements in the Associate of Arts (AA) and Bachelor of Arts (BA) degrees using ESL.

Associate of Arts

- Complete 8 credits from the following college-level ESL courses with a grade B or higher:

ESL 1500	Interm Reading in English	4
ESL 1550	Interm Academic Writing	4
ESL 1560	Intermediate English Grammar	4
ESL 2700	Advanced Reading in English	4
ESL 2750	Advanced Academic Writing	4
ESL 2760	Adv English Grammar	4

Bachelor of Arts

- Complete 16 credits from the following college-level ESL courses (grade B or higher in each):

ESL 1500	Interm Reading in English	4
ESL 1550	Interm Academic Writing	4
ESL 1560	Intermediate English Grammar	4
ESL 2700	Advanced Reading in English	4
ESL 2750	Advanced Academic Writing	4
ESL 2760	Adv English Grammar	4

Vertical Credit

Some international students may qualify for vertical credits upon the completion of 2000 level ESL courses. Qualifying students who pass ESL 2700, ESL 2750, or ESL2760 with a grade of B or higher may request credit for language classes in the same class type below that level as follows:

- Receiving a grade of B or higher in ESL 2700 (<http://catalog.dixie.edu/search/?P=esl+2700>) enables a student to request "vertical credit" for ESL 1500 (<http://catalog.dixie.edu/search/?P=esl+1500>) (4 additional credits graded "P").

- Receiving a grade of B or higher in ESL 2750 (<http://catalog.dixie.edu/search/?P=ESL%202750>) enables a student to request “vertical credit” for ESL 1550 (<http://catalog.dixie.edu/search/?P=ESL%201550>) (4 additional credits graded “P”).
- Receiving a grade of B or higher in ESL 2760 (<http://catalog.dixie.edu/search/?P=ESL%202760>) enables a student to request “vertical credit” for ESL 1560 (<http://catalog.dixie.edu/search/?P=ESL%201560>) (4 additional credits graded “P”).

Students who have graduated from a high school, within American or abroad, whose primary language of instruction is English do NOT qualify for vertical credits. Students who have taken more than one class of high school in the United States are also not eligible for vertical credits.

Procedure for Vertical Credit

1. Vertical Credit Request form is completed and signed by the instructor who taught the advanced class and the department chair.
2. Form is submitted to the Registrar’s Office and the posting fee is assessed on the student’s account.
3. The posting fee must be paid at the cashier’s office and the receipt submitted to the Registrar’s Office.
4. After the above steps are completed foreign language credit, graded “P”, will be awarded for the preparatory foreign language course(s).

Admissions

Dixie State University (DSU) accepts students of **all** levels of English proficiency. Upon arrival, students are required to take both of the following to determine class placement:

- A general English proficiency test (CaMLA-EPT)
- The DSU-ESL Writing Assessment

Applicants may bypass the general English proficiency test (CaMLA-EPT) at DSU if they meet any one of the following requirements:

- Associate degree (or higher) from an accredited U.S. institution.
- Completion of the equivalent of English 1010 (writing course) in an accredited U.S. institution.
- High school diploma obtained in the United States.
- English proficiency scores from tests (see below) approved by DSU. Test scores must be within two years of application.

	Overall	Reading	Writing
TOEFL-IBT	75+	24+	24+
IELTS	6.5	6.5	6.5
HKDSE	5	5	5
SAT	500+ (critical reading/verbal score)		
ACT	22+ (English)		

All transcripts and test scores must be sent to DSU directly from the institution(s) before the application deadline.

ESL Placement

International students not meeting English language proficiency requirements must take the CaMLA-EPT and the DSU Writing Assessment to determine course placement. Both tests can only be taken on campus.

Students scoring 70 or higher on the CaMLA-EPT and 5 on the DSU-ESL Writing Assessment may not be required to take ESL courses.

ESL Estimated Placement Scores

IELTS	TOEFL-iBT	CaMLA-EPT	Placement
1.0 - 4.0	0 - 31	0 - 26*	ESL Intro
4.5 - 5.0	32 - 45	27 - 40*	ESL Basic
5.5	46 - 59	41 - 61*	ESL Intermediate**
6.0	60 - 74	62 - 69*	ESL Advanced**
6.5	75+	70+	May bypass ESL program

* Individual component scores (i.e., scores on the reading, listening, and grammar portions of the test) determine the exact level of specific courses.

**ESL courses (1000 or higher) can be counted towards university graduation credit in one of the following areas in General Education:

- Foreign Language requirement

- General Education elective