

The Office of Professional Development's ESL Proposal to Support Undergraduate Students

1. Newly admitted and continuing International Undergraduate Students

The School of Applied Technology, through the Office of Professional Development (OPD), can offer international undergraduate students, who have been admitted to IIT, the opportunity to improve their English as second language skills by enrolling in Proficiency of English as a Second Language (PESL) courses. PESL courses are offered in the areas of reading and vocabulary development, academic writing, listening enhancement, and effective communication.

In each of the four subject areas multiple levels are offered. The levels will vary in difficulty and students will be placed into an applicable level based on assessment testing conducted at the beginning of the semester. Including the initial assessment, each course will consist of forty-five contact hours.

1.1 Course List

1.1.1. Listening Enhancement I

Listening Enhancement I is designed to help international students improve academic and social listening. Students will complete a variety of listening-based tasks to increase comprehension and develop strategies for effective listening and note-taking. Frequently used vocabulary terms will also be presented.

1.1.2. Listening Enhancement II

Listening Enhancement II is an advanced level Listening course for international students. The course will aid students in comprehending academic lectures and strengthening social listening as well as note-taking skills. Students will complete activities using web-based videos to refine their listening skills. Each unit of study is centered on an academic lecture and the student work that is necessary before, during, and after a university course lecture.

1.1.3. Reading and Vocabulary Development I

Reading and Vocabulary Development I is designed for international students to develop academic reading skills and increase overall vocabulary. Students will be exposed to a variety of readings in order to build effective strategies for analysis of and interaction with academic texts.

1.1.4. Reading and Vocabulary Development II

Reading and Vocabulary Development II is designed to help international students analyze instructor-selected readings for lexical, syntactic, rhetorical, and discursive features. The course will also focus on increasing academic vocabulary and building skills and strategies to improve reading speed and overall comprehension.

~~1.1.5. Fundamentals of Academic Writing~~

~~Fundamentals of Academic Writing is designed to introduce international students to the conventions of academic writing and to develop a voice in writing for American audiences. By composing academic paragraphs in a variety of genres, students will gain knowledge of deductive organizational structure, academic formatting, and strategies for avoiding plagiarism.~~

~~1.1.6. Academic Writing I~~

~~Academic Writing I is designed for international students to improve the fluency and accuracy of their writing. Students will reinforce their understanding of argumentation and organization for American academic audiences through the composition and revision of a variety of paragraphs and essays that demonstrate increasing complexity.~~

~~1.1.7. Academic Writing II~~

~~Academic Writing II will prepare international students for research and research writing. Students will learn advanced research skills and apply them through the composition of several academic papers.~~

1.1.8. Effective Communication I

Effective Communication I is designed to help international students improve speaking fluency and pronunciation. This course will focus on skills and strategies to increase confidence in spoken interactions, both in the classroom, and in daily life.

1.1.9. Effective Communication II

Effective Communication II is an advanced course in speaking and pronunciation for international students. Topics include developing informational skills, interactional skills, and skills to manage interactions in both academic and social life. Accent reduction and the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) will also be addressed.

All courses will be taught by instructors with experience teaching in the field of English as a Second Language and have the minimum of an MA in the fields of Linguistics and/or Teaching English as Second Language. Class sizes will run at a minimum of six students per section and a maximum of eighteen students per section. Multiple sections will be offered in each course to accommodate required students with different schedules.

1.2 Student Population

Students in these courses will consist of four groups. The groups will be participating together in the same courses, but will register for different sections. The sections will be cross listed in Banner so that students can participate in the courses together, regardless of whether they are registered in an academic for-credit or non-credit course section.

- a) Undergraduate students with deficiencies in any or all of the above areas in English. Deficiencies can be based on TOEFL/IELTS sub-section scores or any other variables as established by the IIT Admissions Department. Students will enroll in an academic for-credit section with no billable hours; courses will count towards the minimum number of required credit hours for full-time enrollment status per semester; course grades will not count towards GPA.
- b) Graduate students required to take English proficiency courses during their studies: students will enroll in an academic for-credit section with no billable hours; course will count towards the minimum number of required credit hours for full-time enrollment status per semester; course grade will not count towards GPA; course fee will be the same as the non-credit sections at \$1,250 (includes \$50 assessment fee.)

- c) Degree students who do not have English language requirements, but choose to take these courses for personal enrichment: students will enroll in a non-credit section of the course
- d) International certificate students in the Professional Learning Programs through the Office of Professional Development: students will enroll in a non-credit section of the course

1.3 Admissions Requirements

Undergraduate requirements could be modeled after the graduate requirements as outlined below:

Students must take the TOEFL test of English, IELTS, or Pearsons and submit their score to the Graduate College as part of their application packet. The TOEFL test of English assesses students in four areas: Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking.

Graduate admissions policy requires students who score below a 20 in the areas of listening, reading, and writing to take an English as a Second Language course in that area to increase proficiency. Students who score below a 20 in multiple areas are required to take multiple courses. Currently, students who score below a 20 in speaking are not required to take a speaking course, but speaking may be required in upcoming semesters.

1.4 Assessments

Students will be given an English assessment in the required area by the Office of Professional Development. This assessment will determine which course level is appropriate for each student. While students will only take one course level to satisfy their requirement, (they will not be required to take two semesters in a sub-area if they place into the lower level in that area) the placement into levels will maximize the learning potential for all students in the course as the curriculum is tailored to students' needs at that level. The levels will minimize the impact that multi-level classrooms have on language acquisition by allowing instructors to target all enrolled students' needs.

1.5 Course Completion

Upon course completion students will receive the following grades in Banner:

- a) Undergraduate students required to take English proficiency courses during their studies will receive an S (satisfactory) or a U (unsatisfactory) on their transcript. Students who receive a U will not have completed the ESL undergraduate requirement.
- b) Graduate students required to take English proficiency courses during their studies will receive an S (satisfactory) or a U (unsatisfactory) on their transcript. Students who receive a U will not have completed the ESL graduation requirement as set forth by the graduate studies policy.
- c) Degree students who do not have English language requirements, but choose to take these courses for personal enrichment will receive a P (pass) or an F (fail) on their transcript.
- d) International certificate students in the Professional Learning Programs through the Office of Professional Development will receive a P (pass) or an F (fail) on their transcript.

All grades earned of S, U, P, or F will not be factored into the students GPA. Courses assigned for S or U grades will result in academic credit equal to 3 credit hours per course completed. These credits may not be used to fulfill program requirements in the academic discipline or as elective credits.

ESL for UG FAQ

Director of UG Advising will advertise all this to UG advisors, and the UG Studies Committee. Also to Dean of students and orientation staff, and with the ARC, and new assoc provost for academic affairs)

All degree seeking international students will be evaluated (exchange/visiting will be offered the option).

Admissions will advertise this new service we provide to all admitted international students.

Information will be included in the advising/registration welcome as an extra note about the ESL evaluation to be done in O week and week 1. Telling students they will be notified in August with a schedule for evaluation.

SAT will receive a daily updated data source of deposited, degree seeking international students to SAT in a format to be determined. Include name/email/IITid/toefl/country.

SAT will set up appointments and notify students for evaluation.

Not everyone who is evaluated will necessarily be required to take a class.

SAT will provide UG academic affairs with details of the SOATEST codes and scores, mapping them to PESL course placements.

The PESL classes will not count towards any degree, not even free elec. They will count as attempted/earned hours, but no effect on GPA (Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory grades only)

No extra cost to student

We will not use any registration controls to force students to be evaluated or take a class. UG Advising and One Stop Shop will assist in getting students evaluated and adjusting their schedules and inform advisors.

Need to consider case by case basis on the load for students. We do not want to overload anyone over 18 hours, but if necessary we need to use the regular approval process for this (advisor and dean).

If a student is required to take follow on classes in future terms, UG Advising and One Stop Shop will work with students/advisors to make sure they take it.

If in the academic standing review process in May we determine some continuing students could use ESL help, we will provide those students' info to SAT for evaluation in Fall.