

College ESL Courses and FAQ's

College ESL Courses

We offer integrated courses in reading, writing, listening and speaking at four levels:

ES 86	College ESL I	6 credits
ES 87	College ESL II	6 credits
ES 100	College ESL III	6 credits
ES 150	College ESL IV	6 credits

We offer specialized study of grammar at two levels:

ES 89	Grammar and Editing I	3 credits
ES 93	Grammar and Editing II	3 credits

We offer a specialized focus on listening, speaking, and pronunciation at two levels:

ES 88	Listening and Speaking I	3 credits
ES 91	Listening and Speaking II	3 credits

We offer a specialized writing course for high-intermediate and advanced students:

ES 98	ESL Summer Writing Seminar	3 credits
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College ESL Course Descriptions

(ES 86) College ESL I

This course is designed for beginner-level students who have limited experience with English. It focuses on basic understanding of English through integrated reading, writing, and speaking/listening activities. Students develop fluency in English through personal narrative and information sharing assignments. The course is required for some students based on college placement tests. The course does not replace any degree requirement or elective. A limited course load is recommended for students enrolled. Lecture: 6 hours per week.

(ES 87) College ESL II

This course is designed for intermediate-level students. It focuses on the development of academic English skills through integrated reading, writing, speaking, and listening activities. Students develop college reading and composition skills, focusing primarily on personal narrative and comparing and contrasting ideas. It is required for some students based on college placement tests. It does not replace any degree requirement or elective. Lecture: 6 hours per week.

(ES 100) College ESL III

This course is designed for high-intermediate-level students. It focuses on the development of abilities in academic reading, writing, speaking and listening needed for college level courses. Students analyze course readings and begin to incorporate readings as sources in their academic writing. Students produce a portfolio including three essays and a reading journal. This course is required for some students based on college placement tests. It does not replace any degree requirement or elective. Lecture: 6 hours per week.

(ES 150) College ESL IV

This course is designed for advanced-level students. It focuses on the development of abilities in academic reading, writing, speaking and listening needed for college level courses. Students evaluate and analyze course readings and learn to incorporate readings as sources in their academic writing. Students produce a portfolio including three essays and a reading journal. This course is required for some students based on college placement tests. It does not replace any degree requirement or elective. Lecture: 6 hours per week.

(ES 89) Grammar and Editing I

This course is designed for students who place into ES 086 and ES 087. It focuses on understanding and using fundamental English grammar in context. Students learn to identify errors in their own writing and edit for correctness. Areas to be covered include basic verb tenses and sentence formation. It does not replace any degree requirement or elective. Lecture: 3 hours per week.

(ES 93) Grammar and Editing II

This course is designed for students in ES 100 or higher, including students in upper level writing courses who wish to improve their English grammar. It focuses on understanding and using advanced grammatical structures in context. Students develop an understanding of their own grammatical problems and how to edit their own writing for correctness. Areas to be covered include verb forms, complex sentences and parallel structure. It does not replace any degree requirement or elective. Lecture: 3 hours per week.

(ES 88) Listening and Speaking I

Designed for beginner and intermediate-level English language learners. Focuses on improving speaking, pronunciation, and listening skills for conversational and academic English. Students build vocabulary and develop fluency by discussing various topics of interest. Activities may include listening to podcasts and videos, participating in discussions and role plays, and giving presentations. Does not replace any degree requirement or elective. Lecture: 3 hours per week. 3 credits.

(ES 91) Listening and Speaking II

Designed for high-intermediate and advanced English language learners. Focuses on improving speaking, pronunciation and listening skills for college study. Students develop fluency and accuracy by discussing various academic topics of interest. Activities may include listening to authentic materials such as podcasts and videos, participating in discussions and debates, and giving presentations. Does not replace any degree requirement or elective. Lecture: 3 hours per week. 3 credits.

(ES 98) ESL Summer Writing Seminar

Prerequisite: Placement into ES100 or higher. This course is designed for high-intermediate and advanced English language learners who want to improve their academic English skills. Students will read about a theme in literature, culture, or society and produce different types of academic writing, including one longer essay. Upon completion of the course, students may submit a writing portfolio to be considered for accelerated writing course placement. Does not replace any degree requirement or elective. Lecture. 3 hours per week. 3 credits. (Summer only).

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How do I get started?

The first step is to fill out an application with the Admissions Office.

After completing an application, you must take a placement test. Call the Testing Center at 781-239-2632.

How do I know which courses to take?

You usually receive the results of your placement test on the same day that you take the test. You will then meet with an academic advisor who will use the results to help you choose the level and courses best for you.

Must all English language learners take courses in the College ESL Program?

Not necessarily. It depends on the results of your placement test. You can place into courses in the College ESL Program; or, if your abilities in English are more developed, you can place directly into one of the courses in the Writing Program.

Can I take other college-level courses while I am in the College ESL Program?

Yes, but it depends on your level of English. Your academic advisor will help you choose the courses best for you.

Do I have to go through every level of the program or can I skip levels?

It depends. At the end of each semester, students can participate in an exit assessment which may allow them to accelerate their placement.

Can I receive Financial Aid while taking courses in the College ESL Program?

Yes. You should contact the Financial Aid Office for more information. Please call 781-239-2600 in Wellesley or 508-270-4010 in Framingham.