

UW-Superior offers four English as a Second Language (ESL) courses to help international students in their first semester adapt to the challenges of learning in English at the college level. These ESL courses are designed specifically for degree-seeking or exchange students who have met the minimum English proficiency requirement for undergraduates *and* have been admitted to UW-Superior.

Based on their English proficiency test scores, newly-admitted international students may be required to enroll in one or more ESL classes, in addition to other university courses, during their first semester.

### Who is required to take the ESL courses?

UW-Superior undergraduate students with English language proficiency scores in the following ranges are generally required to take one or more ESL courses in their first semester.

TOEFL iBT	61-79
TOEFL PBT	500-549
IELTS	5.5-6.0
SAT ERW	470-519
MELAB	69-77
PTE Academic	47-54
STEP Eiken	Grade Pre-1
iTEP	4.5
GTEC	1100-1245
Duolingo	100-110
Cambridge English B2 First	162-179

In addition, students who have met the UW-Superior English proficiency requirement through study at a UW-Superior partner language school, such as the English Language and Culture Institute (ELCI), Global Language Institute (GLI), ELS Language Centers (ELS), The Language Company (TLC) or the Wisconsin English as a Second Language Institute (WESLI) are subject to taking ESL classes.

### Who is NOT required to take the UW-Superior ESL courses?

International students whose native language is not English and who have test scores which meet one of the criteria below are not required to take the ESL Placement Test.

TOEFL iBT	80
IELTS	6.5
SAT ERW	520
Duolingo (DET)	115
PTE Academic	55
ACT English	18
MELAB	78
STEP Eiken	Grade 1
iTEP	5
GTEC	1250
Cambridge English C1 Advanced	Pass
Cambridge English C2 Proficiency	Pass
TOEFL PBT	550

## ESL Courses

For each ESL course, students earn two or three degree credits. Degree credits are included in a student's grade point average (GPA), contribute to a student's status as a full-time student, and count towards the 120 credits needed for graduation. Freshman students who take ESL courses can earn a bachelor's degree in four years if they make standard academic progress. ESL course credits may not be recognized for transfer credit at other colleges or universities. For undergraduate students, ESL courses cost the same as all on-campus, undergraduate courses.

UW-Superior offers four ESL courses, organized through the Department of Writing and Library Sciences, to first-semester international students who need to improve their English skills before taking a full load of standard undergraduate-level classes.

The ESL courses are generally offered during the fall semester (September to December) and the spring semester (January to May). No ESL courses are offered during the summer.

### **ESL 131 Reading Academic Texts (3 credits)**

Students develop academic reading strategies and skills by reading such materials as news reports on recent research, abstracts, magazine and journal articles, and textbook excerpts.

### **ESL 132 Writing for Academic Purposes (3 credits)**

Students are introduced to a variety of writing patterns and explore the expectations of American academic audiences, developing their skills by writing personal journals, reaction papers, summaries, and formal, academic essays.

**ESL 133 Listening to Academic English (2 credits)**

Students develop academic listening strategies and skills by listening to such materials as news reports, discussions, documentaries, speeches, and classroom presentations.

**ESL 134 Speaking for Academic Purposes (2 credits)**

Students practice sustaining conversations, giving speeches and group presentations, participating in discussions, and interviewing university or community members.

*Note: Students who have successfully completed ESL 132 Writing for Academic Purposes, by earning a grade of C- or higher, are required to take another writing course the following semester.*

**ESL Placement**

Students who are required to take ESL classes are contacted by an ESL coordinator by email regarding their required ESL classes shortly after they have paid their enrollment deposit. They will also be contacted about scheduling a time for the required oral interview/test, which is conducted via Zoom before students arrive to campus. Students are automatically registered for the required ESL courses, and this information is shared with students' academic advisors to assist with class registration.

**Transition from ESL 132 Writing to WRIT 099, 102 or 209**

Students who have successfully completed ESL 132, Writing for Academic Purposes, by earning a grade of C- or higher, are required to take another writing course, WRIT 102, the following semester. All UW-Superior students must also pass WRIT 209 to satisfy the writing component of the core course requirements for a bachelor's degree.