



English as a Second Language (ESL) at UW-Superior

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.

Newly-admitted international students may be required to take the UW-Superior ESL Placement Test. Based on their placement test scores, students may be required to enroll in one or more ESL courses, in addition to other university courses, during their first semester.

Prospective students who want to earn a degree and whose English level is below the minimum proficiency requirement may apply for conditional admission to UW-Superior and also apply to study at English as a Second Language International (ESLi), our on-campus intensive English program. For information about international undergraduate admissions at UW-Superior, contact the Office of International Programs at international@uwsuper.edu.

NOTE: The ESL courses at UW-Superior are not a full-time ESL program, and the courses are not intended for international students whose main purpose is to study ESL full-time.

Who is required to take the UW-Superior ESL Placement Test?

UW-Superior undergraduate students with English language proficiency scores in the following ranges are required to take the UW-Superior ESL Placement Test prior to the beginning of their first semester.

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|--------------|-------------|
| TOEFL iBT | 61-79 |
| TOEFL PBT | 500-549 |
| IELTS | 5.5-6.0 |
| MELAB | 69-77 |
| PTE Academic | 47-54 |
| STEP Eiken | Grade Pre-1 |
| iTEP | 4.5 |

In addition, students who have met the UW-Superior English proficiency requirement through study at a UW-Superior partner language school, such as English as a Second Language International (ESLi).

Global Language Institute (GLI), ELS Language Centers (ELS), the Wisconsin English as a Second Language Institute (WESLI), or the Madison English as a Second Language School (MESLS), are also required to take the ESL Placement Test.

Who is NOT required to take the UW-Superior ESL Placement Test?

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.

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|--------------|---------|
| TOEFL iBT | 80 |
| TOEFL PBT | 550 |
| IELTS | 6.5 |
| SAT ERW | 470 |
| ACT English | 18 |
| MELAB | 78 |
| PTE Academic | 55 |
| STEP Eiken | Grade 1 |
| iTEP | 5 |

UW-Superior ESL Placement Test

The ESL Placement Test is given once per semester, shortly before classes begin. The test consists of four parts:

- a 90-minute standardized test of reading, grammar and vocabulary
- a 30-minute essay
- a 30-minute standardized test of listening comprehension
- a short interview

Based on their scores on the UW-Superior ESL Placement Test, students may be required to enroll in one to four ESL courses. In some cases, an ESL course may be recommended but not required. In addition to their required ESL courses, students enroll in one or more other university courses during their first semester at UW-Superior.

Those degree-seeking international students who are not required to take the ESL Placement Test must take the Wisconsin English Placement Test (WEPT). The WEPT is offered by the Student Support Services Office shortly before the beginning of each semester. Based on their WEPT scores, students will be placed in an appropriate writing course. Students should continue taking the appropriate writing course each semester until they have completed WRIT 209, which is a requirement to earn a bachelor's degree at UW-Superior.

Students who are unsure whether or not they are required to take the ESL Placement Test should contact the Office of International Programs at international@uwsuper.edu.

ESL 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.

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.

For undergraduate students, ESL courses cost the same as all on-campus, undergraduate courses.

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.

Transition from ESL 132 Writing to WRIT 099, 101, or 102

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.