

The ESL Program at USD offers personal attention and individualized instruction with a focus on student need first and foremost. Classes are small, allowing students extensive opportunity to practice English language skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing, and to experience American culture.

English graduate students specializing in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages), along with other upper-level students who have language-teaching backgrounds, serve as consultants, instructors and mentors in the ESL Program. The ESL Coordinator and staff work together to address each student's specific needs.

The Program

Students with a TOEFL score of 477 (paper) or 153 (computer), an IBT score of 53 or an IELTS score of 4.6 may be admitted to the full-time ESL Program, consisting of 9 credit hours of the following:

- Basic Writing (ENGL 032) – 2 credit hours – Sentence/paragraph writing and grammar fundamentals including parts of speech, phrases, clauses, sentences and sentence combining. ENGL 032 must be taken together with ENGL 101.
- Composition I (ENGL 101) – 3 credit hours – Personal, academic and research writing for non-native English speakers. Special attention is given to word choice, grammar, syntax, sentence/paragraph structure, text development and text revision. The ESL version of this course fulfills the University's first-semester writing requirement.
- Topics (ENGL 192) – 3 credit hours – Complements ENGL 101, with additional opportunities to develop a range of writing skills.
- Practicum (ENGL 195) – 1 to 4 credit hours – Hours may be divided into grammar, speaking/listening, reading, small group or individualized study, depending upon student need. Beginning students register for 4 credit hours, advanced students register for 1 or 2 credit hours.
- Independent Study (ENGL 491) – 1 to 3 credit hours – Upper-level writing or speaking course for third/fourth-year students who wish to further develop English skills.

As first-year students progress in their English skills, they are encouraged to enroll in courses that are not specifically a part of the ESL Program, but that address ESL concerns:

- Communication
- Composition II
- English Grammar
- Business Writing
- Classes in American Politics, History and Culture

Art, Business, Computer Science and Music also offer introductory courses ideal for students pursuing ongoing work in English.

The University Writing Center

The University Writing Center (UWC) is located in Dakota Hall, room 201. Open Monday through Friday, the UWC also offers evening hours in I.D. Weeks Library as well as online. See <http://www.usd.edu/wcenter/> for more information.

- Writing consultants work with student writers to help them with any part of the writing process, including prewriting, organizing, developing paragraphs, revising and reviewing sentence structure and grammar. Consultants can also assist writers with correct documentation, whether MLA or APA style. For ESL students, the UWC offers individualized and group listening and speaking sessions.
- Students may schedule up to three individual writing appointments per week at the Writing Center, free of charge, and ESL students may join conversation groups throughout the semester. Individualized conversation sessions are available for ESL students enrolled in ENGL 192 and 195.

The ESL Summer Institute

Each summer, students come from Asia, Latin America and elsewhere to participate in a month-long intensive experience at The U. The Summer Institute's professional staff members welcome international students and non-native English-speakers who want to strengthen their English language reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. Classes are small and supportive, with plentiful opportunities for one-on-one tutoring and cultural exploration.

ESL Student Accomplishments

ESL students who stayed at the U for academic study have taken degrees in such varied fields as:

- Art
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Earth Science
- Education
- English
- Media and Journalism
- Music

Along with Bachelor of Art (B.A.) and Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degrees, some students have earned their Master of Art (M.A.), Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.), Master of Science (M.S.), Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees.

Contact Information

To visit campus call Admissions at 1-877-COYOTES. For more information on ESL studies at The U, contact:

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The University of South Dakota