English as a Second Language

Director
- Melissa Meisterheim

Assistant Director
- Jeffrey D. Knowling

Faculty: https://clas.uiowa.edu/esl/people
Website: https://clas.uiowa.edu/esl/

The University of Iowa offers English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction in three distinct, but related, programs: ESL credit classes, the Iowa Intensive English Program (IIEP), and the Teaching Assistant Preparation in English program (TAPE).

These programs meet the needs of students whose first language is not English. ESL credit classes help students raise their English proficiency so they can complete a degree successfully. IIEP provides intensive instruction for students who must raise their English proficiency to gain admission to a university or college. TAPE helps students improve their oral competence in English so they may assume classroom teaching responsibilities.

Programs

ESL Credit Program

English as a Second Language credit classes bridge the gap between full-time language instruction and full-time academic work, serving students who have taken the English Proficiency Evaluation (EPE) and who have been found to need additional English language support. ESL courses are offered to help students increase their proficiency in four skill areas: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. A course in grammar also is available. Each course offers 3 s.h. of credit, which undergraduates may count as elective credit toward graduation. Courses are taught by ESL lecturers and by teaching assistants pursuing advanced degrees in linguistics.

Courses taken to meet the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences English proficiency requirement must be completed with a grade of C or higher. If a student earns a grade of C-minus or lower in an ESL course, the course must be retaken in order for the student to fulfill the ESL course requirement. An ESL course must be taken for a letter grade and may not be taken pass/nonpass or satisfactory/unsatisfactory. Students are not allowed to drop ESL courses once the semester begins. A student held for ESL courses may not enroll in a rhetoric course until the ESL requirement is completed.

Visit the ESL Credit Program website for more information.

Iowa Intensive English Program (IIEP)

The Iowa Intensive English Program (IIEP) serves students who have not yet achieved the language proficiency needed to compete successfully in a degree program. The program welcomes international students preparing to enter universities and colleges in the United States as well as other adults who want to improve their English skills. Conditional admission to the University of Iowa is possible for undergraduate students. For more details regarding conditional admission, visit International Students on the Office of Admissions website.