

English as a Second Language

The University of Iowa offers English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction in two distinct, but related, programs: ESL credit classes 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. TAPE helps graduate students improve their oral competence in English so they may assume classroom teaching responsibilities.

English as a Second Language is administered by the Department of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures, and Cultures.

Programs

ESL Credit Program

English as a Second Language credit courses provide academic language support to students, based on their performance on the English Placement Evaluation (EPE), so that students can succeed in university coursework. ESL courses are offered to help students increase their proficiency in four skill areas: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Each course offers 3–4 s.h. of credit, which undergraduates may count as elective credit toward graduation. Courses are taught by ESL faculty.

Courses taken to meet the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences English proficiency requirement must be completed with a grade of C or higher for undergraduate students. If an undergraduate 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. Courses taken by graduate students for English proficiency must be completed with a grade of C-minus or higher. ESL courses must be taken on an A–F graded basis and may not be taken pass/non-pass or satisfactory/unsatisfactory. Undergraduate 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 or an Interpretation of Literature course until the ESL requirement is completed.

Visit the ESL Credit Program website for more information.

Teaching Assistant Preparation in English (TAPE)

The Teaching Assistant Preparation in English program (TAPE) is designed for graduate students whose first language is not English, who need additional work on English communication, and who will hold teaching assistantships while enrolled at the University of Iowa. Only students who need the program and who have sufficient competence in English to profit from it are eligible. TAPE courses are open to graduate students who have been evaluated for TA certification and to others if space is available. Students are taught by full-time professional ESL instructors.