UB English Course Placement
for
Undergraduate Non-Native Speakers of English

The UB English Course Placement guidelines below should be used to register non-native English speaking students for the most appropriate English course. The largest number of non-native speakers of English at UB are those students most commonly referred to as "international students." For the purpose of these English course placement guidelines, "international student" will be defined as any student studying at UB on an F-1, J-1, or other non-immigrant visa.

Note: It is not always immediately clear how to place certain international students who have unique educational backgrounds, multiple English proficiency exam scores, or exam scores other than TOEFL or IELTS scores. In these cases, please consult with the English Language Institute for further placement guidance.

ENG 105Z Placement: Communicative Literacy 1 (CL1)

Undergraduate students admitted to UB who are non-native speakers of English are placed into the Communicative Literacy 1 (CL1) English course (ENG 105) primarily on the basis of standardized English proficiency exam scores. The most common test scores used for this purpose are scores from either the TOEFL iBT or the IELTS exams that students typically submit with their UB applications.

- All non-native English speaking students who meet or exceed each of the four sub-section scores on either the TOEFL iBT or IELTS exams should be placed in a "Z" section of ENG 105. ENG 105Z sections are reserved exclusively for non-native writers of English, the course syllabus is tailored to the specific needs of non-native writers of English, and instructors do not assume that students have significant pre-existing knowledge of American culture.

- International students may request placement into a "non-Z" section of ENG 105 only by:
    1. Obtaining approval from the Program Director for English as a Second Language Instruction and
    2. Meeting one of the following conditions:
        a. Scored substantially higher than the four sub-section score minimums described in the ENG 105Z Placement Rubric
        b. Scored substantially higher than 550 EWRS on the SAT and did not submit TOEFL or IELTS exam scores
        c. Did not submit SAT, TOEFL, or IELTS exam scores

- Non-native speakers of English who are USA citizens or permanent residents and who have been admitted to UB as domestic students should be advised to meet with the ELI Program Director for English as a Second Language Instruction to confirm whether placement in an ENG 105Z or a "non-Z" section is most appropriate.

  Please note that "country of residency" and time lived in a given country do not automatically guarantee English proficiency or sociocultural knowledge sufficient for successful completion of a "non-Z" section of ENG 105.

ENG 105Z: Placement Rubric

- The ENG 105Z placement rubric is based on TOEFL and IELTS exam sub-section scores (not total scores) for each of the four skill areas.
- All non-native English speaking students who meet or exceed each of the four sub-section scores should be placed in ENG 105Z.

Sub-Section Skill	iBT TOEFL Minimum Sub-Section Score	IELTS Minimum Sub-Section Score
Reading	21	6.5
Listening	21	6.5
Speaking	23	6.5
Writing	24	6.5

ENG 100Z/ESL 411 Placement: Pre-CL1 English Required

All non-native English speaking students who score below the minimum sub-section scores specified in the ENG 105Z Placement Rubric should be placed into ENG 100Z (Introduction to Academic Writing) and/or ESL 411Z (Spoken English) based on the following placement rubric.

Depending on a student's specific sub-section scores, placement could be:
- ENG 100Z (only)
- ESL 411Z (only)
- Both ENG 100Z and ESL 411Z

Pre-CL1 English Required: Placement Rubric

Sub-Section Skill	iBT TOEFL	IELTS	Course Placement: Pre-CL1 English Required
Reading	20 or below	6.0 or below	ENG 100Z
Listening	20 or below	6.0 or below	ESL 411Z
Speaking	22 or below	6.0 or below	ESL 411Z
Writing	23 or below	6.0 or below	ENG 100Z

Note: Those students required to take ENG 100Z and/or ESL 411Z must adhere to the following three conditions during their first semester:

1. Students must take the required ENG 100Z (Introduction to Academic Writing) and/or ESL 411Z (Spoken English) course(s) in their first semester.

2. Students who are required to take both ENG 100Z and ESL 411Z may not register for more than four courses total during their first semester (this total includes the two required English courses).

3. Students must achieve a final grade of "C" or higher in each English course to fulfill this English course requirement. If a student receives a final grade of "C-" or lower in either English course, the course(s) must be repeated the following semester until a final grade of "C" or higher is earned.

   If the final course grades for both ENG 100Z and ESL 411Z are "C-" or below, the four-course limit applies until this English requirement has been met.

International UB "Bridge" Students
International students admitted to UB as bridge students have a pre-matriculation requirement of successful completion of the ELI's Intensive English Program (IEP). Upon successful completion of the IEP, international bridge students will be required to take both ENG 100Z and ESL 411Z during their first semester at UB and to adhere to the same three conditions described above.