

English as a Second Language

Jan Dormer, Director

ESL Program

Taylor University offers a variety of programs to non-native English speakers who wish to improve their English proficiency either for entrance to an English-based academic program or for general proficiency. All programs aim to develop students' academic English proficiency in preparation for academic study in English.

Students can take ESL classes either full-time or part-time, depending on their language proficiency. Students can come to Taylor just to study English, or they can take ESL courses in preparation for academic study at Taylor. Students with a native language other than English will work with international admissions to determine the courses and programs for which they qualify.

For students who wish to earn a certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), the Education Department offers the TESOL program. Students who have completed the ESL program at a level sufficient for matriculation into the university's degree programs can complete the four required courses to obtain the TESOL certificate. This option provides the credential often required to teach English in their home countries.

English as a Second Language (ESL) Courses

ESL 100 3 hours

Taylor Traditions

In this course students will develop social English language skills at the low intermediate level. While learning about fun and engaging Taylor traditions such as Silent Night and Airband, students will develop social speaking and listening skills for the college campus environment. Attention to pronunciation issues will ensure that students receive early assistance in being well-understood on campus.

ESL 101 3 hours

American Culture

In this course students will develop all four language skills (reading, writing, speaking and listening) at the low intermediate level. The content used for language development, American Culture, will help students grow in their understanding of American values, behaviors, and interactions. Attention to grammar, as needed, will ensure that students develop a solid foundational level understanding of the English language.

ESL 102 3 hours

Exploring Identity

In this course, students will develop the social and academic oral communication skills needed in the American classroom. The content area of identity will facilitate students learning about themselves and others as they practice engaging with others orally in the classroom at an intermediate level.

ESL 103 3 hours

Christianity Around the World

In this course students will develop academic reading and writing skills at an intermediate level. The content area of Christianity around the world will help students develop Christian vocabulary and discourse skills, while also providing opportunity for students to use language pertaining to geography and world events.

ESL 104 3 hours

Taylor Spiritual and Classroom Life

In this course, students will develop social and academic oral English language skills at the high intermediate level. While learning about Taylor spiritual life, such as chapel and discipleship, students will develop speaking and listening skills for deeper conversations in various campus contexts. Attention to pronunciation issues will ensure that students receive any interventions needed to ensure comprehensibility.

ESL 105 3 hours

American History

In this course, students will use all four language skills (reading, writing, speaking and listening) at the high intermediate level with the goal of understanding and producing the type of academic language that they will face in regular courses. The content, American history, will help students grow in their understanding of the events that have shaped American politics, government, and values. Attention to grammar, as needed, will ensure that students continue to grow in their understanding of the English language.

ESL 106 3 hours

American Pop Culture

This course is designed to cause students to reflect on their home culture while learning through discussion, lectures, and experience key aspects of American pop culture.

ESL 107 2 hours

Academic Listening Strategies

An intensive academic listening tutorial that prepares advanced level English language learners for American undergraduate-level lectures and classroom interactions through authentic listening texts.

ESL 108 2 hours

Academic Reading Strategies

An intensive academic reading tutorial that prepares advanced level students for college undergraduate-level reading requirements through attention to strategies for reading and using authentic texts.

ESL 109 2 hours

Academic Presentation Skills

This course provides instruction and practice in the speaking, organizational, and academic skills required to make successful academic presentations in American universities.

ESL 110 2 hours

Academic Speaking and Listening

In this course, students will receive ESL assistance and instruction through a companion ESL course as they take a required regular college course that emphasizes speaking and listening skills. The content will be derived from the required regular course. The goal in this course is to use that content to develop academic speaking and listening skills at an advanced level.

ESL 111 2 hours

Academic Reading and Writing

In this course, students will receive ESL assistance and instruction through a companion ESL course as they take a required regular college course that emphasizes reading and writing skills. The content will be derived from the required regular course. The goal in this course is to use that content to develop academic reading and writing skills at an advanced level.

ESL 120 1-3 hours

Topics in English Language Development

This is an independent study course that can be used as needed for increased or continued English language support and enrichment.

ESL 200 3 hours

Advanced Academic Language Skills

This integrated skills course ensures that English Language Learners are equipped with the linguistic tools necessary to meet the demands of an American academic environment. Students will receive focused instruction and practice in advanced academic speaking, listening, reading, and writing through college-level books, lectures, film, and other forms of academic media.

ESL 201 3 hours

The American Classroom

This course prepares advanced students for the university classroom through content-based instruction that closely follows the curriculum format of Taylor University classrooms. Students will gain a broad perspective of historical, religious, and societal influences on American educational culture through lectures, class discussions, and practical assignments.

ESL 202 3 hours

Academic English Preparation for Biblical Literacy

Designed to prepare advanced English language learners for the academic rigors of Taylor University's Biblical literature courses (survey of the Old and New Testaments). It is not an introduction to the literature, content, and history of the Bible, but rather is a course that builds necessary academic reading, writing, listening, and study skills for success in these courses in subsequent semesters.