

English (ESL) Requirements for International Undergraduate Students at UNL

ESL Testing and Class Placement Explained

1. *English Test Requirement for UNL Acceptance: 525 TOEFL Score or 77 EPE Score*
UNL requires international undergraduates to submit a score of 525 or higher on the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or an English Placement Exam (EPE) score of 77 or higher for acceptance.
2. *Initial (Tentative) ESL Placements Based on TOEFL Scores* Students are initially given tentative ESL course assignments based on the TOEFL scores they submit to UNL. These initial ESL class assignments are considered tentative because students have not yet arrived and taken the English Placement Exam. Final ESL class assignments are based on the results of the English Placement Exam.
3. *On-Campus English Placement Exam (EPE) for Newly Arrived International Students, and ESL Course Assignments, Based on EPE Scores*

After meeting UNL's English requirement on the basis of the TOEFL score, **UNL requires international students to take the English Placement Examination (EPE) upon arrival at UNL.**

Students need to make a score of 84 or higher to be exempted from any further ESL courses excepting CESL 150 and/or 151 English Composition, which may be required for graduation. Students who achieve test scores below 84 are placed into one of three ESL courses: 186, 187, or 150. ESL course assignments are made by the Coordinator of Programs in English as a Second Language (PIESL), Department of English.

Note: Students who do not test out of ESL courses by making an EPE score of 84 or higher are required to take the assigned ESL course. If students for any reason do not show up for the assigned course, or if they drop their assigned course, they will be blocked from registering for the next semester.

Descriptions of UNL's Undergraduate ESL Courses

English 186 A remedial 3 credit hour course (and part one of a nine-hour block including 187 and 150) designed to address deficiencies in all skill areas (Listening Comprehension, Speaking & Pronunciation, Reading Comprehension, and Academic Writing). Students placed into 186 have achieved the minimum TOEFL score for acceptance to UNL (525) but do not pass the EPE (minimum score required is 77). Therefore, students in English 186 equate to students in or near the Advanced Level of the Intensive English Program (IEP) at UNL.

English 187 A remedial 3 credit hour course (and part two of a nine-hour block including 186 and 150) designed to address the writing needs of international undergraduates. The course focuses on writing development, from paragraph through essay writing; reviews of mechanics, grammatical structure, and usage are also included.

English 150 and 151, International Sections:

Note: English 150 and 151, International Sections, meet the 3 or 6 credit hour requirement of UNL colleges for the Communications Requirement. Both courses allow credits towards UNL “Essential Studies” and “Integrative Studies” requirements.

English 150, International Section A 3 credit hour course which allows 3 credits towards the “Essential Studies” and “Integrative Studies” requirements at UNL (the third course in a nine-hour block including 186 and 187). English 150, International Section, covers the goals stated by the Department of English for English 150 in terms of the teaching of “localized writing,” while also including reviews of the need areas of international students (mechanics, structure, usage, etc.).

English 151, International Section A 3 credit hour course (and the second in a six-hour block including 150) which allows 3 credits towards the “Essential Studies” and “Integrative Studies” requirements at UNL. English 151, International Section, covers the goals stated by the Department of English for English 151 in terms of the teaching of “globalized writing,” while also including reviews of the need areas of international students (mechanics, structure, usage, etc.).

Note: International students will not be allowed to take English 151 unless they have completed English 150, International Section, at UNL or have an EPE score of 84 or above.

Please contact the Coordinator of PIESL with any questions concerning ESL courses at UNL.