MiraCosta College has three distinct English as a Second Language programs that offer high-quality instruction and meet a wide range of student needs. Whether you are an international student continuing your higher education in the United States or an immigrant needing better English for college study and employment, our programs will help you gain the English skills you need to achieve your goals.

For more information, go to www.miracosta.edu/mccesl
The English Language Institute (ELI) offers international students the opportunity to increase their English language proficiency and develop the skills needed for success at a U.S. college or university. ELI is also appropriate for anyone who wants to improve their English for work or recreational purposes. This program is for students who:

• Are in the U.S. on an F-1 Visa or Visitor Visa and are at least 18 years old
• Have a minimum of one year English language training at the high school or college level
• Want TOEFL test preparation or have not yet passed the TOEFL
• Want language immersion, small class sizes and individualized instruction
• Are looking to improve their reading, writing, grammar, listening and speaking skills
• Want to learn about and experience United States culture

Program Details

Students attend classes 20 hours a week. Each session is eight weeks long; there are five sessions per year. Students have access to a wealth of resources including a centralized International Student Office, Career Center, library and bookstore. They can also utilize the Health Services Center and cafeteria as well as participate in college clubs and activities.

“Mirror Costa College is amazing. The teachers are very helpful and provide informative advice for international students. My writing skills have improved tremendously, my accent is more natural and I feel more confident in my speaking. This is a great place for international students who want to enter American college.”

—Tippapa Sarakosil, ELI student

The Noncredit ESL Program offers ESL classes during morning, afternoon and evening hours at the Community Learning Center. The program also offers citizenship, vocational ESL, conversation and Saturday classes, as well as computer-based study. Students can enroll in a video and DVD-based class that can be completed from home.

Noncredit ESL is for students who want to:

• Improve their English skills in order to get a job or get a better job
• Improve their English to take credit ESL and other academic and/or career preparation classes
• Communicate better in English
• Become U.S. citizens
• Help their children with homework

Program Details

General ESL: The Noncredit ESL program offers seven levels of ESL instruction. Students take a placement test during registration and are placed in one of the levels.

Vocational ESL: In this course, students explore career options, prepare to get a job or improve their English skills for a better job.

Citizenship: This open-entry course allows students to have a flexible schedule with personalized instruction as they prepare for the Naturalization Interview.

“When I arrived in the U.S. I felt very confused and angry because I didn’t understand anything that people said to me. Then I enrolled in the Noncredit ESL program at MiraCosta College and my English improved a lot. They taught me the best way and I was able to get a job and soon I’m going to open my own business.”

—Uriel Navarro, NCESL student

The Credit ESL Program provides advanced skill development and college academic preparation to students whose first language is other than English. This program gives students the tools and techniques they need to reach their goals, whether they be academic preparation, workplace improvement or personal enrichment.

Credit ESL is designed for students who:

• Want to improve their English for success in college classes, at work or in the community
• Are considering earning a degree or certificate, or are taking other credit classes
• Need higher-level English skills
• Enjoy the flexibility of attending classes one or two days per week
• Want to earn college credits toward an associate’s degree

Program Details

Credit ESL: These ESL classes provide specialized coursework in composition, grammar, reading, listening and speaking. Students completing ELI or the Noncredit ESL program should enroll in these courses.

American College English (ACE): Our most advanced ACE courses provide associate degree credit and some are transferable to UC/CSU.

“Credit ESL courses really helped me out a lot. The classes especially helped me learn to write essays and prepared me for my other courses. The instructors were also very helpful. I could tell they really cared about us and spent time with each student.”

—Erika Shiraishi, Credit ESL student

Additional Information

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