

## **Advising Tips: English as a Second Language (ESL)**

### **ESL Website: Resources for Faculty, Students and Tutors**

In fall of 2011 we launched the English as a Second Language (ESL) website to assist faculty, advisors and students.

The website includes an overview of the testing and placement process and the expanded ESL curriculum. As of fall 2009 the ESL program was revised and expanded to include not only courses in writing but courses in conversation, listening and pronunciation. For course descriptions and more information about ESL at Canisius please see: <http://www.canisius.edu/esl/>

The ESL website includes resources for faculty and tutors helping students to improve their language skills. It also includes self-help resources for those learning English as a second language—whether they are taking ESL courses or not. Please explore the ESL website for much more information.

### **Testing and Placement:**

**All international students, including both exchange students and degree seeking students, have their language skills evaluated.** Students are evaluated for placement into ESL courses based on a variety of factors including scores on TOEFL or IELTS, SAT scores (if available) as well as transcripts in combination with a comprehensive testing process.

- Students are not tested in cases where a number of factors indicate strong language skills. For example, when the student has very high TOEFL scores and/or SAT scores, a strong history of ESL coursework or coursework in English at other U.S. institutions or other factors, have completed the Cambridge, etc.
- Students who are tested must complete a four hour comprehensive language assessment test (reading, writing, speaking, listening) given during International Student Orientation to identify the best ESL course work for each student's needs. Students are further evaluated by ESL instructors during the first week of classes.

We make every effort to include notes in the Student Advising and Retention Screen (SARS) to offer insight into whether the student was or was not tested and the underlying logic of these decisions and related recommendations.

## General Guidelines for ESL Course Registration:

Students taking an ESL writing course in the fall semester should continue with the next writing course in the sequence during the spring. In cases where an exception should be made based on ability, the ESL instructor will advise the student accordingly. Please consult Barbara Porter ([porterb@Cansius.edu](mailto:porterb@Cansius.edu)), Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences and ESL Program Director with any related questions.

- **There are three levels of writing courses ESL111, 112, and FYS101 International.** The total number of ESL writing courses a student takes depends on the student's language skills.
- **FYS101 International .** Students planning to graduate from Canisius College who have taken ESL112 should next register for FYS101 **International**. All students must complete FYS101 or the equivalent in order to graduate. FYS 101 International can be found in "Look up Classes" under Exploring Academic Writing. This course is considered a full equivalent for the FYS101 Core Curriculum requirement.
- **The ESL pre-requisite for ENG101 is FYS101 International.**
- **ESL courses do not substitute for ENG101.**
- **ESL 118: Oral Presentation** fulfills the Core Curriculum attribute for Oral Communication.

## Sequential Registration in ESL Courses

### Writing

- Students taking ESL111 should plan to take ESL112
- Students taking ESL 112 should plan to take FYS101
- Students taking FYS101 should plan to take ENG101

### Conversation, Listening and Speaking

There are two reading courses (ESL114 and 115) and two conversations courses (ESL103 and 104) in the ESL program. These courses are complimentary and be taken in any order for free elective credit. Both courses strengthen the use of English language learning skills and would be beneficial to all students.

- If you have taken one **reading** course but not the other, you are encouraged to consult with your instructor and academic advisor about the possibility of taking the second course.
- If you have taken one **conversation** course but not the other, you are also encouraged to consult with your instructor and academic advisor about the possibility of taking the second course.