

English as a Second Language (ESL) Directed Self-Placement

To the newest member of our HCCC family,

Welcome! This is an exciting time as you begin your college journey. The faculty and staff at Hudson County Community College, are looking forward to supporting you as you work to fulfill your educational and goals.

The first step on your journey is an important one. Your courses in this first semester should be inspiring, educational, and yes, a bit challenging as well. To help you select the course that is the best fit for you and enables you to be successful, we have designed a Directed Self-Placement (DSP) process. The DSP process will help you to figure out which of HCCC's ESL courses is the best match for you based on your current reading and writing skills and abilities.

The DSP process consists of four easy steps:

Step 1. **Contact** Darlery Franco, Assistant Dean, Testing and Assessment/Multiple Measures Coordinator Telephone (201) 360-4191 Email DFranco@hccc.edu

Step 2. **Read** the ESL Course Expectations and Course Descriptions;

Step 3. **Take** the Self-Directed Questionnaire;

Step 4. **Select** your preferred ESL courses.

The questionnaire will ask you to reflect on your prior academic experiences and your future goals as well as review brief sample assignments. This should all take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

See you in September (or sooner!),

The HCCC ESL Faculty

ESL Writing & Grammar and Reading & Academic Discussion

Course Expectations: Which is the best fit for you?

Reading/Writing L0

- You should have written short passages of no more than 2 to 3 sentences.
- You should have read short sentences.
- You should have not had grammar and language instruction.

Reading/Writing L1

- You should have never written an essay or typed one page in many years.
- You should have read short passages of limited pages.
- You should have had some grammar and language instruction.

Reading/Writing L2

- You should have written essays before, but they may have been short (1-2 pages).
- You should have read printed readings before.
- You may have grammar and language challenges with your writing.

Reading/Writing L3

- You should have written essays of two to three (2-3) pages.
- You should have regularly read readings of several pages.
- You may have some grammatical challenges with your writing.

Reading/Writing L4

- You should have written essays of three or more (3+) pages.
- You should have read readings at least a chapter in length.
- You may have some minor challenges with grammar and language with your writing.

ESL Writing and Grammar
Course Descriptions: What will you learn in each ESL Level?

Class	ESL Level 0	ESL Level 1	ESL Level 2	ESL Level 3	ESL Level 4
Credits	6 credits	6 credits	6 credits	6 credits	6 credits
Description	In this course you will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write paragraphs in English about your life • Organize paragraphs • Learn about basic grammar and language 	In this course you will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write short essays • Learn about essential grammar and language • Learn editing skills 	In this course you will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write multi-paragraph essays in narrative and comparison-contrast form • Edit your writing • Learn about academic grammar and language 	In this course you will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write argument essays • Learn advanced grammar and language 	In this course you will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write 5/6 paragraph essays • Brainstorm and revise your work • Learn formal grammar and language
Essays and Written Responses	Several paragraphs (1/2 page)	3-4 paragraph essays (1 page)	4-5 paragraph essays (1-2 pages)	5 paragraph essays (2-3 pages)	5 paragraph essays (3-4 pages)
Required Research	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Frequently	Always

ESL Reading and Academic Discussion (Levels 0 – 3)
ESL Reading and Speech (Level 4)
Course Descriptions: What will you learn in each ESL Level?

Class	ESL Level 0	ESL Level 1	ESL Level 2	ESL Level 3	ESL Level 4
Credits	6 credits	6 credits	6 credits	6 credits	6 credits
Description	<p>In this course you will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn how to locate the main idea • Learn the difference between main idea and supporting details • Learn about listening and speaking in everyday situations • Learn vocabulary and pronunciation. 	<p>In this course you will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn new information from reading a text • Learn new vocabulary from reading a text • Learn how to use a dictionary • Learn how to speak academically 	<p>In this course you will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn how to understand a specific topic • Learn how to summarize and paraphrase with new vocabulary • Improve your thinking skills • Respond to the content of a reading • Use spelling rules, pronunciation, and rhythm of spoken English 	<p>In this course you will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about different types of reading and organization of content • Connect readings with audio and video pieces • Learn note taking skills • Learn about verbal paraphrasing and summarizing 	<p>In this course you will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn advanced reading strategies • Learn how to react to a reading • Learn how to complete timed reading tasks • Present informative and persuasive speeches
Reading Length	Short, simple phrases	Paragraphs of 200-500 words	1-3 pages of guided academic text	3-5 pages from textbooks and other sources	At least 5 pages from various sources
Written Responses	Short answer response	Short paragraph response	Several paragraphs response	Essay response	Essay response
Presentations	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Frequently	Always

[ESL Directed Self-Placement Questionnaire](#)