

ESL Curriculum

The ESL curriculum is closely aligned to the standards for BC Grade 10-12 students. Upon satisfactory completion of the ESL program, students are expected to have sufficient English proficiency and academic skills to be successful in the BC high school program. Instruction in British Columbia's intensive ESL program is grouped into four levels of instruction. This enables students of different English abilities to be provided with curriculum and instruction appropriate for their English proficiency level.

British Columbia's ESL standards combine the principles of second language learning with the language development necessary for success academic content areas, i.e., to be successful in the BC high school program. The standards incorporate the learning of English for authentic purposes in both social and academic setting.

Through meaningful interaction, ESL students explore ideas and concepts at one of four levels that most closely reflect their level of English proficiency and academic preparedness.

ESL students at all levels of English proficiency engage in a rich variety of learning activities that build on their academic, language and cultural experiences. Their learning activities are included in each of

the five skill stands of the program, i.e., speaking, listening, reading, writing and grammar usage.

In order to determine a student's need and placement in the ESL program, the ESL Center assesses a student's English proficiency during the admissions process as follows:

- Students are given an ESL entrance assessment test (generally near the end of August). According to their test results, students will be placed in Levels 1 to 4 to receive instruction appropriate to their levels. If students pass the Level 4 test, this indicates that they have sufficient English language abilities and they will be enrolled directly into the BC grade 10 program.
- Students, who apply for admission to a British Columbia school during the school year, write their English proficiency assessment tests at an Admissions Office. Written tests are evaluated by the ESL Director (or trained designate).
- All students must have completed a basic English language program with a minimum of three years' instruction in China, before they can be considered for admission to British Columbia's ESL program. The minimum vocabulary is 1000 word.

- Student applicants who cannot reach the minimum requirements for Level 1 ESL proficiency, and still desire admission, will be placed in a pre-ESL program and offered special instruction. In such cases, more than one year will be required to complete the entire 4 level ESL program.

- Student applicants who test at level 1 will likely require more than one year in ESL in order to reach an English proficiency level required for success in BC's grade 10-12 program.

Throughout the ESL program, there are minimum expectations for all students in terms of English learning.

These include such items as:

- ❖ Listening---Students are expected to listen on a daily basis.

- ❖ Speaking---Students are expected to speak on a daily basis.

- ❖ Reading---Students are expected to read a minimum of five books per level in a variety of topics and content areas.

- ❖ Writing---Students are expected to write every week on a variety of topics and content areas.