Collin College’s Academic ESL Program Course Descriptions

Intermediate (Level 1)

Students at the intermediate level are able to communicate with native speakers in most social situations, but their fluency and control may still be weak in one or more areas. Instruction at this level provides fairly intensive practice with English focusing development of vocabulary and core communication structures. Intermediate courses include:

**ESL Oral Communication Intermediate (ESLC0305)**
This course develops listening and speaking skills emphasizing development of students to improve communication in natural settings. Topics include developing note-taking skills, expressing general beliefs and examples, giving recommendations and asking for opinions among others.

**ESL Grammar Intermediate (ESLG0305)**
This course focuses on developing core grammar principles for students. Some of the topics included are verb tenses, subject-verb agreement, word order, parts of speech, and modal auxiliaries.

**ESL Reading Intermediate (ESLR0305)**
This course helps students grow fundamental vocabulary while reading about a variety of engaging topics. Students develop skills to identify topics, main ideas, and supporting details in simplified academic and literary texts.

**ESL Writing Intermediate (ESLW0305)**
Students in this course learn to develop sentence-level writing and paragraph creation (culminating in short multi-paragraph writing). The course introduces students to pre-academic, academic, and experiential writing. Writing styles that students typically explore are the narrative, process, and definition.

**ESL Pronunciation (ESLX0305)**
In this class, aspects of spoken English are emphasized, including stress and intonation, individual phonemes, and awareness of connected and reduced speech. Students are able to reduce their accent in English and reduce pronunciation problems of specific language groups.
Advanced (Level 2)

Students at the advanced level are approaching readiness for academic study but still have some significant areas needing improvement using their English skills. This level is designed to broaden and deepen students' linguistic foundation (vocabulary and grammar knowledge) as well as to refine their language skills within a communicative context. Advanced courses include:

**ESL Oral Communication – Advanced (ESLC0310)**
This course develops listening and speaking skills and prepares them to function in educational, vocational and/or personal English-speaking contexts. Topics include phrases for discussion and presentations, pronunciation, and colloquial phrases among others.

**ESL Grammar Advanced (ESLG0310)**
This course builds up base grammatical structures helping students to start expressing more complex ideas. Topics include a review of verb tenses, subject-verb agreement, nouns and articles, clauses (independent and dependent) gerunds and infinitives.

**ESL Reading Advanced (ESLR0310)**
In this class, students will build vocabulary from the Academic Word List, word families, and context clues. They will further main mastery at identifying and understanding topics, main ideas, supporting details, transitions, and organizational patterns of abridged and unabridged academic and literary texts.

**ESL Writing Advanced (ESLW0310)**
This course focuses on sentence structure and multi-paragraph essays. Students are introduced to higher level academic writing and topics include summarizing, paraphrasing, developing support for opinions, and documenting sources.

**ESL Vocabulary and Idioms (ESLX0310)**
Students in this class focus on develop vocabulary idiomatic American English and slang phrases. Students increases their familiarity with idiomatic English to facilitate comprehension and production of idioms in spoken and written discourse.
Transitioning (Level 3)

Students in the Transitioning level are nearly ready to begin academic study or participate with confidence in professional settings. Instruction at this level is designed to address any remaining specific English skills areas as well as develop study skills to help students be academically successful. Transitioning courses include:

**ESL Oral Communication Transitioning (ESLC0325)**
This course develops listening and speaking skills and prepares them to function in coursework. Students practice natural communication regarding academic concepts in classroom activities by working in dyads and in small and large groups. Formal speaking skills are focused upon through delivery of individual researched presentations and debates.

**ESL Grammar Transitioning (ESLG0325)**
Students in this course apply complex grammatical structures in a variety of settings. Instruction focuses on noun clauses, adjective clauses, adjectives phrases, adverb clauses, adverbial phrases, and conditionals.

**ESL Reading Transitioning (ESLR0325)**
This class focuses on reading rhetoric analyzing cultural allusions, connotation of vocabulary, augmentation of reading rate, implied main ideas, facts and opinions, inferences and conclusions, author’s purpose, tone, point of view, vocabulary and graphic aids in unabridged academic texts to transition to academic coursework.

**ESL Writing Transitioning (ESLW0325)**
The Transitioning level writing class trains students to write academic papers in various rhetorical modes with a primary emphasis on argumentation. Teaching points focus on mechanics of writing, common problems that ESL speakers encounter, research, and documentation allowing students to successfully transition to ENGL1301.

**Test-Taking and Study Skills for Non-Native English Speakers (ESLX0325)**
This course prepares students for success by providing instruction and practice in test-taking techniques as well as exposing them to the expectations and realities of college academic coursework. Topics include information processing, memory, strategic learning, self-regulation, goal setting, motivation, educational planning, and learning styles. Techniques of study such as organization, time-management, listening/speaking/reading/writing in a lecture or classroom setting, note-taking, research skills, and test preparation will be covered.