



English Language/LAUNCH Placement
University of Denver
Administered by the English Language Center

Who is required to take English language courses in the LAUNCH Curriculum?

All international students who are non-native speakers of English are required to take at least one English language course in the LAUNCH Curriculum.

Exception: Transfer students admitted from another college or university where English is the universal language of instruction may be waived from taking LAUNCH courses if they have completed at least 30 transferable semester credits OR have taken both English Composition I and English Composition II and earned at least a C-.

Why do students need to take these courses?

As part of the Common Curriculum at DU, most students must complete a foreign language requirement. Based on their assessment scores, students must complete 4, 8, or 12 language credits in order to fulfill the requirement.

Similarly, non-native speakers of English will be required to take 4, 8, or 12 credits in the LAUNCH curriculum. Scores on TOEFL, IELTS, or DU's English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) will determine placement into English language credit courses in the LAUNCH Curriculum for which students receive credit toward their degree and fulfill the foreign language requirement.

What is the LAUNCH Curriculum?

The courses in the LAUNCH Curriculum are designed to help students be more successful in their academic programs by improving their proficiency in English, learning about being part of an American institution of higher education, and learning more about U.S. culture.

Students who are identified as needing no further English language training will be required to enroll in one 4-credit class focusing on U.S. culture. Students who are identified as needing additional training in either reading/writing or listening/speaking will be required to take 8 credits: a 4-credit course in the skill where additional assistance is needed, as well as the aforementioned culture course. Students who are identified as needing both reading/writing and listening/speaking will be required to take 12 credits: the writing, speaking, and culture courses. Students who have been conditionally admitted to the University will take all three courses as their final level in the English Language Center.

Course Descriptions

ENGG 1100 - Exploring US Culture - Designed as a foundational course for international students, this course examines the dynamic nature of US culture. While acquiring a language is the first step for successful integration into a nonnative country, it is only the beginning. Once the language is acquired, one must learn the dynamic and pluralistic nuances every culture has. Students are introduced to the pluralistic nature of contemporary American values and reflect on how these values interact. Students are also given the opportunity to locate their cultural identity and role in the greater multicultural community at DU.

ENGG 1080 - Speaking Strategically - Designed as a foundational course for international students, this course prepares students to effectively communicate orally for a variety of academic purposes. Through the use of content selected by the instructor, students learn to synthesize information from a variety of different sources, deliver a critical and comprehensible prepared presentation, initiate successful oral discussion strategies during classroom discussions, and critically contribute to a variety of academic conversations. Students are also expected to demonstrate the ability to critically listen and respond to sustained lectures or speeches.

ENGG – 1090 - Writing that Matters - Designed as a foundational course for international students, this course prepares students to effectively communicate through writing for a variety of academic purposes. Through the use of content selected by the instructor, students learn to synthesize texts, critically respond to a variety of source materials, critically write in a way that contributes to the greater academic discussion, and analyze written texts of various genres and styles according to author purpose, audience, and ways of reasoning or logic.

How is placement into LAUNCH courses determined?

All international students who are non-native speakers of English are required to take ENGG 1100 – Exploring US Culture.

For students who submit TOEFL or IELTS scores for admission, placement into ENGG 1080 – Speaking Strategically and ENGG 1090 – Writing that Matters will be based on the sub-scores in relevant skill areas:

Skill Area	TOEFL Sub-score	IELTS Sub-score	Course Requirement
Writing	23 or below	6.5 or below	ENGG 1090 – Writing that Matters
Reading	23 or below	6.5 or below	ENGG 1090 – Writing that Matters
Speaking	24 or below	6.5 or below	ENGG 1080 – Speaking Strategically
Listening	21 or below	6.5 or below	ENGG 1080 – Speaking Strategically

Students who submit a qualifying Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) with a grade of C or above will not be required to take ENGG 1080 or ENGG 1090.

Students who do not submit TOEFL, IELTS, or CAE scores for admission will be required to take the ELPA for placement into LAUNCH courses.

How is the ELPA administered?

All students are asked to provide writing and speaking samples by responding to specific prompts. The writing and speaking samples are completed online prior to arrival on campus. **Students who are required to take the ELPA will be emailed instructions for how to complete the assessments online.**

A student's writing and speaking samples are reviewed by two ELC instructors to assess the student's ability to communicate in a manner that can be easily understood by a native speaker of English.

For Reading/Writing, the components that the instructors look for are the student's:

- ability to organize their thoughts
- ability to develop and support their main ideas
- ability to reference a source text appropriately – paraphrasing, quoting, etc.
- ability to use word forms, vocabulary, and complex sentence structures at a level of sophistication appropriate for university study
- ability to use correct sentence structure, word order, grammar, punctuation, sentence variety, and transitions. We do not hold students accountable for more superficial errors such as comma use, minor spelling errors, etc.

For Speaking/Listening, the components that the instructors look for are the student's speaking fluency, pronunciation, comprehensibility, ability to interact spontaneously with native speakers of English, and the ability to contribute appropriately to academic conversations by asking and answering relevant questions.