

Culture and Language Bridge Program

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Objectives

The Culture and Language Bridge Program is designed to prepare non-native speakers of English for a productive academic career at Seattle University. The primary goal of the program is to provide admitted Seattle University students with a background in American academic culture and language skills essential for success in their studies. The courses offered in the program are highly advanced, with a specific focus on university-level reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills.

Description of Courses

During their first quarter at Seattle University, students at the beginning of their academic careers are usually expected to take courses in English Syntax for Writing (CLBR 086), Academic Reading and Writing (CLBR 087), Classroom Communication (CLBR 088), and one additional class based on the recommendation of their advisor. In their second quarter, first-year students are usually required to take Basic Writing (ENGL 101) and two additional courses.

Students who transfer to Seattle University during their subsequent years of study, as well as graduate students, are expected to take courses that advance their strategic vocabulary, grammar and reading (CLBR 080), reading and writing (CLBR 090), and academic speaking skills (CLBR 091) essential for success in their disciplines. Transfer and graduate students with TOEFL scores ranging from 190/520/68 to 210/547/78 (inclusive) are required to take the Academic Vocabulary and Grammar course (CLBR 080) before they can enroll in Advanced Academic Writing (CLBR 090). The course work for transfer and graduate students concentrates on American academic culture and specific preparation for requirements at Seattle University. Undergraduate business majors and graduate students enrolled in the Albers School of Business attend a supplemental course in conjunction with a five-credit-hour class, Management 280. These students are required to take Advanced Academic Discourse (CLBR 091) during their first quarter at Seattle University and have the option of taking Advanced Academic Writing (CLBR 090) in the same or the subsequent quarter.

The Program Schedule

The program is offered during the fall, winter, and spring quarters. Courses are not offered in the summer.

English Proficiency Admission Requirements (Policy 2008-01)

All non-native English speakers whose TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score (or a MELAB/IELTS equivalent) is between 190/520/68 and 233/577/91 (inclusive) are required to take the Placement Essay Test upon their arrival at Seattle University. Results of the Placement Essay Test combined with proficiency scores may require that students be enrolled in the Culture and Language Bridge Program to ensure their academic success at Seattle University.

Placement Essay Test

The purpose of the Placement Essay Test is to allow students an opportunity to demonstrate the quality of their writing. Placement Essay Tests are evaluated by the university faculty and the staff of the Culture and Language Bridge Program based on such considerations as language fluency, rhetorical development, logical organization, and sentence structure.

Students whose writing skills require additional improvement need to take courses in the Culture and Language Bridge Program. If students' writing in English appears to be in need of substantial work, they may be required to enroll in Academic Reading and Writing (CLBR 087) and the CLB section of Basic Writing (English 101). Moderate writing skills, as determined by the essay evaluators, require students to take the Basic Writing course (English 101 CLB section). On the other hand, students whose writing abilities are deemed sufficient for success in their academic studies do not need to enroll in the program.

Students whose TOEFL scores are 237/580/92 or above are not expected to take the Placement Essay Test or enroll in the Culture and Language Bridge Program. However, they have the option of taking classes in the program.

Academic Progression

In the Culture and Language Bridge Program, students' work is evaluated with the goal of preparing non-native speakers for success in their studies at Seattle University. In keeping with this objective, a student must earn a grade of C or better in all CLBR courses required based upon the individual's TOEFL score and Placement Essay Test. Grades below C are considered to be insufficient for progression and thus must be repeated until a grade of C or better is achieved.

Courses numbered under 100, which include all courses with the CLBR designation, do not count for credit toward an undergraduate degree. Moreover, grades in these courses do not affect a student's undergraduate GPA. On the other hand, the CLB section of Basic Writing, English 101, follows the university grading system and a grade of D- or better earns a student five general elective credits toward an undergraduate degree. This course does not, however, satisfy the university core writing requirement.

Culture and Language Bridge Program Courses

Courses for Students at the Beginning of their Academic Careers

CLBR 086 English Syntax for Writing 3

The class meets three times a week and concentrates on syntactic structures, such as sentence constructions and phrase-level grammar, essential in the production of English academic writing. The course is specifically geared toward lexical and grammatical regularities in English syntax that can facilitate writing clarity and cohesion.

CLBR 087 Academic Reading and Writing 5

The class meets daily and focuses on the interaction between reading, writing, and critical thinking. Paraphrasing, summary writing, library research, and the writing process as it pertains to American academic writing, as well as effective reading are examined. Issues of sentence structure and style are also addressed.

CLBR 088 Classroom Communication 2

The class meets two times a week and concentrates on the interaction of culture and language in the classroom. Informal and formal speech varieties, lecture comprehension, classroom participation, intelligibility, and oral presentations are examined.

Courses for Transfer and Graduate Students**CLBR 080 Academic Vocabulary and Grammar 5**

(Required of students with TOEFL scores ranging from 190/520/68 to 210/547/78, inclusive)

The class meets five times a week and concentrates on essential academic vocabulary and grammar features fundamental in formal academic reading and writing in English. The course specifically focuses on essential academic lexis and syntax in English academic prose that can enhance reading fluency and comprehension, as well as writing clarity and cohesion.

CLBR 090 Advanced Academic Writing 3

The class meets three times a week and presents various concepts fundamental in academic writing in English (reasoned and objective argumentation, information synthesis, writing from sources, and the essential elements of essay structure). Paraphrasing and vocabulary development represent ongoing supplementary course goals.

CLBR 091 Advanced Academic Discourse 3

Focuses on American cultural values and assumptions as an intrinsic part of the discourse in American academic settings. Provides an avenue for improving students' global speaking and listening skills, discourse-level construction of presentations, as well as academic discussion and participatory skills.

CLBR 092 Supplemental CLBR 0

Required for business majors and graduate students in the Albers School of Business. This student-centered workshop includes lecture and discussion in support of an academic course (Management 280). Mandatory CR/F grading with minimum achievement level equal to a C grade.