

L&S Advisor's Consortium: What's up with ESL?

	Issue	Old	New
1	Procedures for deciding who takes ESLAT unclear	Admissions judgement call; criteria were not clear to students. Lack of clarity led to student complaints, appearance of inequitable treatment.	Any student required to submit a TOEFL or IELTS score for admission will be directed to take the MSN-ESLAT by Admissions. TOEFL/IELTS criteria are published on Admissions website.
2	Confusing signals about taking ESL, enforcement	"Dean's Action" used to force students into ESL; clearing actions fell to various units. Decisions made were not always documented.	Transcript text with clear statement; will appear in advising gateway, student center. Decisions will be documented.
3	Applicant-facing information about tests is unclear	The Catalog (and later, Guide) contained confusing information about UWEPT and ESLAT and the relationship between these placement tests. Unclear to students directed to ESLAT that it is an official test.	The Guide has been edited to underscore that all students take one of two official placement tests. These tests are not interchangeable. If ESL-directed student takes UWEPT, that is treated as an error. ESLAT rebranded "MSN-ESLAT."
4	Comm A and English Proficiency intermingled	ESL118's Comm A status served as proxy for completion of ESL, even though Comm A is not focused on English proficiency. DARS used L&S requirement that ESL118 was only way for ESLAT-directed students to meet Comm A as tool for validating students had taken ESL courses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UW System Regent policy on English language proficiency has been clarified. • UAPC: ESL118 represents UW-Madison English language proficiency standard, distinct from Comm A. • UGEC: ESL118 also meets Comm A; for students who must take ESL, they must take this Comm A course. • UGEC: Students who have Comm A by AP/IB test or transfer credit may still need to satisfy English language proficiency by taking ESL118 or by earning an exempt score on the MSN-ESLAT. • UGEC: Students needing to take an ESL Comm A course may only enroll in ESL118. Enforced pre-reqs for English, LSC, and Com Arts Comm A courses will prevent students placed into ESL from taking those courses. • RO: DARS will be revised to reflect both Comm A and English language proficiency requirements.

5	Use of transfer or test credit to meet GER	Students directed to ESLAT who had AP, IB, or transfer credit for Comm A were not allowed to use that credit to satisfy Comm A, though other students with exactly the same scores/courses were.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students with AP/IB test or transfer credit treated equally. Students directed to MSN-ESLAT who use AP/IB test or transfer credit to meet Comm A may still need to meet English proficiency.
6	Limits on transcript recording of transfer course credit	Students directed to ESLAT who had prior ESL or Composition courses did not see that prior academic credit recorded, though other students with similar courses did. 40-year old L&S limits on ESL credit had been generalized campus-wide. (There is no documentation of governance approval.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All credit that can transfer to UW-Madison transcript will be recorded. • Determination about how transfer credit meets requirements continues to be under authority of programs, curriculum committees. • L&S Curriculum Committee: these credits can now be counted among minimum credits required for L&S degrees, within standard limits for transfer credit.
7	Limits on ESL course credit and removal of credit from transcript	ESL credit limited to 6 credits, regardless of source. Students who completed more than 6 ESL credits (including in UW-Madison courses) had credits removed, resulting in inaccurate transcripts.	This limit has been removed: all college level ESL course credit will be recorded on the transcript , consistent with modern transcript procedures.
8	ESL course descriptions include statements about credit limits	Several ESL courses contained a statement asserting that the courses do not count toward graduation requirements.	Course descriptions have been revised to remove inaccurate statement. Syllabi also now conform to university guidelines, include learning outcomes and connections to assignments and learning.
9	Timing of enrollment in ESL courses	Enrollment for continuing students was delayed until end of semester to prevent misenrollment if students didn't pass. This led to problems for students setting schedules, and for the program planning course offerings.	Students in ESL courses may enroll at regularly assigned enrollment time ; requisites (based on courses and test scores, not student groups) for ESL courses will be enforced; PERC will be used to un-enroll students who did not pass pre-req course or who do not have appropriate placement test score.
10	Incomplete information shared about student progress	Only initial placement test score available; no further information provided about progress through sequence.	Students in ESL courses are re-tested at beginning and end of term. End-of-term results to be posted in SIS and represented in DARS as additional MSN-ESLAT test scores. Students who are re-placed at beginning of term will be allowed to enroll in new course by permission of instructor.