English as a Second Language

English as a Second Language (ESL) courses are for individuals who are native speakers of another language and who need to improve their English language skills for academic or employment purposes. Courses are offered for credit at beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. Both an intensive English program and part-time program are offered.

The ESL/Linguistics Department serves students from any language background. Some students are referred to the department from the Harper College assessment program. Student educational backgrounds range from nine grades completed through completion of graduate/professional programs. Students with fewer than nine years of education are referred to the Adult Educational Development Department for enrollment in the Nonnative Literacy Program.

Students are tested during registration and counseled for appropriate program and course placement. For more information, contact the department office in Building D Room D138 or call 847.925.6227

Intensive English Program

The Intensive English Program (IEP) at Harper College is dedicated to providing excellent comprehensive English language instruction for postsecondary students whose primary language is not English. Professionals in the field of teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL) will utilize proven English language teaching methods to prepare students for further academic study in the U.S. This learner-centered program is offered on a full-time basis for both international students and residents of the U.S.

Students completing the final level of the Intensive English Program are able to enroll in the highest-level English as a Second Language (ESL) reading and writing courses at Harper College while also enrolling in selected degree credit courses. Upon successful completion of these reading and writing courses, students will have the academic English language skills needed for success in all degree credit courses offered by Harper College and may enroll in any degree credit courses and programs for which they meet the prerequisites.

This program is DHS approved to admit students on student visas.

English Language Program

The English Language Program (ELP) is for those students who wish to improve their English language skills for educational, professional or employment reasons on a full or part-time basis. Depending on their proficiency level, students may enroll in one or more classes, including integrated skills courses, as well as courses in reading, writing, grammar, conversation, TOEFL preparation and other supplemental courses. Students at the higher levels in this program may also enroll in other appropriate college courses.