PARSONS THE NEW SCHOOL FOR DESIGN

Frequently Asked Questions About the English Course Placement Test

Why did I receive a notice about the English course placement test?	All incoming students receive information about the English course placement test. This is to make sure that all non-native English speakers know that the test is required.
Who is required to take the English course placement test?	All non-native English speakers in the undergraduate, AAS, and graduate programs are required to take the test even if they have taken English classes or have a TOEFL or SAT score. If you are a native English speaker, you are not required to take the test.
What is a native English speaker?	A native English speaker is generally defined as a person whose first language is English. If the main language that you grew up speaking at home was English, then you are a native speaker.
I am a citizen of the United States/ Canada/Australia/theUnited Kingdom. Do I need to take the test?	The English course placement test requirement has nothing to do with your citizenship, immigration status, or place of residence. The only factor that matters is your native language.
What if I am bilingual? What if I am fluent in English? What if some/part/all of my education was in English? What if I went to High School in the US or all of my classes were in English?	You must take the test if you are not a native speaker. There are no exceptions.
I received a transfer credit evaluation stating that my English credits from my previous college have been accepted. Do I still need to take the test?	Yes. Please be aware that the transfer credit evaluation is a preliminary evaluation NOT a definitive statement. This is potential credit that might be given to you after being reviewed. As stated on the evaluation form: "This evaluation is subject to program review and receipt of all final documentation." If you place into ESL 1650 or ESL 1700, transfer credits for Critical Reading and Writing will not count toward the six credit Critical Reading and Writing requirement. They will be awarded as liberal arts electives credits. If you place into ESL 1800 or Writing for International Students, pending credits may be awarded at the end of the semester depending on your performance in your ESL course. The ESL Advisor will consult with your ESL instructor and your advisor at the end of the semester in order to determine whether any pending transfer credits will be awarded. Up to three credits will count toward the Critical Reading and Writing requirement, and any remaining English credits would count as liberal arts electives. If you are not placed into an ESL course, the pending credits will be awarded once the Office of Advising receives proper documentation of your course work.
Why does Parsons require non-native English speakers to take the test?	We want to make sure that students are prepared for the courses they will take at Parsons. If the test results demonstrate that a student is not prepared for college-level academic courses, then we will require her to successfully complete ESL courses in order to improve her English. Many of our students are non-native English speaking students, and our ESL classes are designed to help these students succeed in their academic courses.
Do I need to bring anything to the test?	Please bring pencils with erasers, your New School identification number, and a photo ID.
May I use a dictionary during the test?	No. Dictionaries are not permitted.

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What will be on the test?	The English course placement test includes the following sections: listening comprehension (recorded speech followed by multiple-choice questions); grammar questions (multiple choice); reading comprehension questions (multiple choice); one 30-minute essay of at least one page (choice of two topics); and a brief interview. The test will take about one hour and forty-five minutes.
How can I prepare for the test?	The best way to prepare for the test is to read, write, and speak English as much as possible so that you are comfortable thinking in English instead of translating your thoughts from your native language into English, and vice versa.
When will the test take place?	For both the fall and spring semesters, testing takes place during orientation; for precise testing dates, times, and locations please refer to the orientation schedule.
How do I sign up to take the test?	You will receive an email with a link to sign up for the test. This link can also be found on the Advising English Placement website. You only need to sign up for one test date.
How can I find the results of the test?	Students will receive their placement results and register for an appropriate English class on the morning following their placement test. English course instructors and academic advisors will be available for questions and to assist with registration. The time and location of the placement results will be announced when you take the test. Please be aware that it is your responsibility to find out your test results and to register for the appropriate courses. Failure to register for this class will impact your progress towards completion of degree requirements and may extend your expected date of graduation. If you have problems with your schedule please contact your program advisor immediately for help.

If you have any other questions about the English course placement test and ESL courses, please contact:

parsonsenglish@newschool.edu

If you have any questions concerning registration or orientation week, please contact the Office of Advising:

AdvisingParsons@newschool.edu

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English Course Placement Test Results Guide

Students will receive their placement results and register for an appropriate English class on the morning following their placement test. English course instructors and academic advisors will be available for questions and to assist with registration. The time and location of the placement results will be announced when you take the test.
Please be aware that it is your responsibility to find out your test results and to register for the appropriate courses. Failure to register for this class will impact your progress towards completion of degree requirements and may extend your expected date of graduation. If you have problems with your schedule please contact your program advisor immediately for help.

AAS, BFA, and BBA Students

If you place into:	You are required to register for this writing course in your first semester:	You are required to take the following courses in this order:
ESL 1650	ESL 1650 (NELP 1650)	First semester: ESL 1650 (1.5 credits) Second semester: ESL 1700 and ESL 1750 American Cultural Language (1.5 credits each, 3 credits total) Third semester: ESL 1800 (3 credits) Fourth semester: Critical Reading and Writing Bridge (3 credits)
ESL 1700	ESL 1700 (NELP 1700) AND ESL 1750 American Cultural Language (NELP 1750) Note: You must register for both courses during the same registration session.	First semester: ESL 1700 and ESL 1750 American Cultural Language (1.5 credits each, 3 credits total) Second semester: ESL 1800 (3 credits) Third semester: Critical Reading and Writing Bridge (3 credits)
ESL 1800	ESL 1800 (NELP 1800)	First semester: ESL 1800 (3 credits) Second semester: Critical Reading and Writing Bridge (3 credits)
Writing for International Students	Writing for International Students (NELP 1850)	First semester: Writing for International Students (3 credits) Second semester: Critical Reading and Writing Bridge (3 credits)
No ESL	Critical Reading and Writing 1 (PLEN 1020)	First semester: Critical Reading and Writing 1(3 credits) Second semester: Critical Reading and Writing 2 (3 credits)

MFA, MA, MArch, and all other graduate degree programs

If you place into:	You are required to register for this writing course in your first semester:	You are required to take the following courses in this order:
ESL Graduate intermediate	ESL Graduate Intermediate (NELP 5898)	First semester: ESL Graduate Intermediate Second semester: ESL Graduate Advanced
ESL Graduate Advanced	ESL Graduate Advanced (NELP 5899)	First semester: ESL Graduate Advanced

You can not skip levels or take more than one English class at the same time.

You can not register for Perspectives in World Art and Design 1 (PLAH 1000) unless you receive a placement of No ESL or have completed either ESL 1800 or Writing for International Students.

If you feel that you may not have been placed in the proper course, please be aware that you are still required to register for the course in which you were placed. All English as a Second Language (ESL) instructors will administer a short writing test in the first class meeting in order to determine if any students have been misplaced. Instructors will contact the ESL Advisor if they recommend that any students be moved to a different course, and he will review each case individually.

Important Note for Students with Pending Transfer Credits for Critical Reading and Writing:

Students with pending transfer credits for English coursework from another school where English is the medium of instruction may still be required to take ESL courses depending on the results of the Enligsh Course Placement Test.

If you place into ESL 1650 or ESL 1700, transfer credits for Critical Reading and Writing will not count toward the six credit Critical Reading and Writing requirement. They will be awarded as liberal arts elective credits.

If you place into ESL 1800 or Writing for International Students, pending credits may be awarded at the end of the semester depending upon your performance in your ESL course. The ESL Advisor will consult with your ESL instructor and your advisor at the end of the semester in order to determine whether any pending transfer credits will be awarded. Up to three credits will count toward the Critical Reading and Writing requirement, and any remaining English credits would count as liberal arts electives.

If you are not placed into an ESL course, the pending credits will be awarded once the Office of Advising receives proper documentation of your course work.

Important note for AAS Fast Track Students:

Please be aware that your English Course Placement Test results will determine if you will be required to attend an additional semester or two beyond the year that you anticipate being at Parsons in order to satisfy this language proficiency requirement. To avoid unexpected visa issues or financial concerns after arrival, please consider this possibility in advance.

If you have questions about transfer credits or registration, please make an appointment to speak with your advisor. Welcome to Parsons and best of luck in your first semester!

Office of Advising
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212.229.5855 AdvisingParsons@newschool.edu