

PARSONS THE NEW SCHOOL FOR DESIGN

School of Art and Design History and Theory

English as a Second Language (ESL) Fact Sheet for BFA, BBA, and AAS Students

- A Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of at least 92 on the Internet-based test or 580 on the paper-based test is required of all non-native English-speaking applicants for admission to all Parsons BFA and BBA programs.
- AAS programs require non-native English-speaking applicants to achieve a TOEFL score of at least 79 on the Internet-based test or 550 on the paper-based test for admission. AAS Fashion Marketing Online applicants should contact the program directly for TOEFL requirements.
- The TOEFL does not exempt students from English as a Second Language (ESL) course requirements. Non-native English speakers may be required to take ESL courses regardless of TOEFL scores or previous English coursework.
- All students who are not native English speakers (except those who attend the Summer Orientation Program for International Students) must take the English course placement test, regardless of previous English course work, TOEFL score, or SAT score. The English course placement test is administered at Parsons during orientation weeks in both the fall and spring and during the advising period in July.
- Students with pending transfer credits for English coursework from a college where English is the primary language of instruction may still be required to take ESL courses, depending upon the results of the English course placement test.
- 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 to satisfy this language proficiency requirement. To avoid unexpected visa issues or financial concerns after arrival, you are encouraged to consider this possibility in advance.
- The English course placement test is composed of 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 (choice of two topics), and a brief oral interview. The test is given immediately before both the fall and spring semesters.
- The English course placement test determines whether students are required to take an English as a Second Language (ESL) course. On the basis of their test results, students who are required to take ESL courses will be placed in one of the following classes:
 - ESL 2
 - ESL 3 (Please note that American Cultural Language is a co-requisite of ESL 3)
 - ESL 4
 - ESL 4 Writing Intensive
- Students may not skip ESL levels.

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If you place into	You are required to take the following courses in the following order
ESL 2 (PLEN 0505)	First semester: ESL 2 (1.5 credits) Second semester: ESL 3 and American Cultural Language (1.5 credits each, 3 credits total) Third semester: ESL 4 (3 credits) Fourth semester: Critical Reading and Writing Bridge (3 credits)
ESL 3 (PLEN 0507) and American Cultural Language (PLEN 0506)	First semester: ESL 3 and American Cultural Language (1.5 credits each, 3 credits total) Second semester: ESL 4 (3 credits) Third semester: Critical Reading and Writing Bridge (3 credits)
ESL 4 (PLEN 0509) or ESL 4 Writing Intensive (PLEN 0510)	First semester: ESL 4 or ESL 4 Writing Intensive (3 credits) Second semester: Critical Reading and Writing Bridge (3 credits)

- Once students complete ESL 4 or ESL 4 Writing Intensive, they must take one semester of either Critical Reading and Writing Bridge (recommended) or Critical Reading and Writing 1. (The curriculum for both courses is the same, but only students who have completed ESL 4 may register for CRW Bridge, whereas CRW 1 is open to both native and non-native English speakers.) Students must complete ESL 4 or ESL 4 Writing Intensive before taking Perspectives in World Art and Design 1 and 2.

- ESL students fulfill the required six credits of English by successfully completing an ESL 4 class and either Critical Reading and Writing Bridge (recommended) or Critical Reading and Writing 1.

- The average ESL class has 15 students.

- Classes meet twice per week for a total of two and a half hours per week.

- Questions concerning English course placement tests or ESL classes should be directed to:

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