Welcome to ESL!

I know that you have many choices for studying English and I am happy you have selected our program. You probably heard about us from family or friends. Maybe they mentioned our excellent classes or the variety of services such as our computer labs or career conferences. Perhaps they also told you about fun projects and presentations they did with their classmates from other countries. Last year, we served about 2,689 students in our program:

Number of Countries: 49  
Number of Languages: 29

The language learning journey of our students is not always easy, as you know, but it certainly pays off!

My father-in-law has a saying: You can do any job if you have the right tools. He is a very logical person who can fix almost anything. I have learned a lot from him over the years. For example, when I get frustrated with a new gadget (like my new cell phone), I take a deep breath and a step back. I try to identify the issue then make a list of my options. In other words, I figure out where I am stuck and what are the right tools to fix the problem. These tools can be people, information, or objects. Sometimes I turn to a professional or a knowledgeable friend. Other times I search on the internet or buy a piece of necessary equipment. Before long, I find myself solving the problem and having fun in the process.

So, what are the right tools to support your English learning journey? The answer depends on your learning style. If you like technology, you can use some online website or software available in our Language Learning Center (LLC). If you are a people person, you can encourage your teacher and classmates to do a Thanksgiving food drive for poor families or organize a Red Cross blood drive to help save lives. If you are a book person, visit our very own ESL Library for fiction and nonfiction material. Of course, no one is just one type of person. If you are like me, the right tool will probably depend on your learning mood. Always a good place to start is with our expert professionals — ESL teachers, counselors, and staff — who are here for you.

Our noncredit ESL classes and services are designed to help you achieve your goals of college and career success. Meanwhile, we hope that you enjoy the learning process. Have a wonderful semester!

Dr. Liza Becker
CAREER DEVELOPMENT

CAREER BRIEFS

Make an appointment with one of the members of the ESL Counseling Team and get the Career Brief of your choice!

Architects

Architects translate the needs of clients into structures and environments that satisfy both functional and esthetic requirements. They design and monitor the construction of a wide variety of structures; houses, office buildings, schools, industrial parks, and shopping centers. They hold discussions with clients, visit building sites, review local zoning laws and building codes, estimate building costs, prepare designs, contract documents and specifications for the proposed building, and observe work in progress to make certain that plans are being followed.

Personal characteristics:
- Catch on to things
- Make mathematical calculations
- Visualize structures in three-dimensional space
- See small differences in shapes
- Use words to communicate ideas verbally with clients
- Write specifications and reports
- Check for details
- Use finger dexterity
- Do precise work with tools, instruments or equipment
- Work well with people
- Direct, supervise, and influence others
- Deal with some stress during deadlines
- Resolve conflicts and working up to clients' expectations
- Endure long work hours working according to set standards
- Make judgments using knowledge or experience

Current Monthly Wage Data (2011)
Entry/Low Pay $5,462
Average Pay $7,692
Top Pay $8,710 & up

Would you like to learn more about these careers and their requirements? Make an appointment to see a member of the ESL Counseling Team. Ask for Michael Ngo, John Pellitteri or Bertha Rodriguez.
Photographers

Photographers record visual images on film or video tape to graphically illustrate or explain an idea. They may also prepare the pictures for presentation. They generally specialize in a particular type of subject matter, such as portraits, landscape, nature or news pictures and in types of equipment such as 35 millimeter cameras, video or movie cameras. Specialties: Biophotographers, Industrial Photographers, Pet Photographers.

Personal characteristics:
- Learn and understand photographic procedures, and techniques
- Compile data and synthesize what they have learned
- Visualize pictures from objects and negatives
- Work with things by operating and controlling them
- Make judgments using knowledge or experience
- See slight differences in shapes and shades
- Work well with people by speaking and signaling to them
- Use hands and fingers to reach for things
- Use color discrimination
- Use numbers and words
- Use eye-hand coordination
- Be creative
- Do precise work accurately

Photographers

Current Monthly Wage Data (2011)
Entry/Low Pay $1,970
Average Pay $3,549
Top Pay $4,329 & up

Heating and Cooling System Mechanics


Heating and Cooling Systems Mechanics install and repair refrigeration and heating equipment used in homes, schools and commercial buildings. They work on equipment ranging from window air-conditioners and private home heating units to large, complex systems in plants and factories.

Personal characteristics:
- Analyze data
- Visualize objects from drawings and blueprints
- See slight differences in objects
- Use words
- Use numerical reasoning
- See detail
- Learn and understand instructions
- Use eye-hand coordination and finger and manual dexterity
- Do precise work with tools, instruments, or equipment
- Make decisions using facts
- Do precise work accurately
- Move often from one task to another using a variety of skills
- Use color discrimination when working with electrical devices

Current Monthly Wage Data (2011)
Entry/Low Pay $3,033
Average Pay $4,249
Top Pay $5,227 & up
My Scuba Diving Trip

Three years ago, I faced a big challenge on my trip to the Maldives, which is a place for scuba diving. My friends urged me to try scuba diving. Even though I was frightened, I still had a strong urge to try it. When I put on my diving suit, I felt very excited. On the other hand, I was worried that things were going to happen. When it was my turn, a man asked me, “Are you ready to go into the sea?” God knew how much I didn’t want to do that. When I was in the ocean, my heart was racing and my legs were shaking. I could even hear my heart beating. I started to close my eyes and tried to take a deep breath. I tried not to focus on the depth of the sea and the voice of the aqua lung. I told myself to be calm. Then I opened my eyes, and I found everything under the ocean was very beautiful and magnificent. For example, I saw a group of clown anemone fish and colorful tropical fish. I felt like a mermaid swimming with the sea turtles. On that day, I realized when I put away all my worries, everything around me will become easier.

Jasmin Hu (Tsang Ling Hu)

Writing B

Overcoming My Phobia

I challenged my fear of heights by riding a roller coaster. When I climbed up the highest Eiffel Tower located on the Champ de Mar in Paris, I felt dizzy and nervous. I had acrophobia. I could not bear to ride the roller coaster, stand on a tall building or be close to the edge of high places. I love outdoor activities, but I was afraid of climbing up high places. It was not easy to overcome the fear, but I had to try it. Three tears ago, I tried to ride a roller coaster at Six Flags Magic Mountain. It looked so high that it made me very scared. When it started and began to go high, my heart was racing, and my hands were sweating. I was afraid that looking down might cause me to be dizzy. I was terrified and screamed. I told myself to calm down, take a deep breath, and enjoy controlling me fear. Then an amazing thing happened. I opened my eyes, and felt that there was no danger of falling as long as I stayed calm. On that day, I learned that when I face a challenge, I just need to think “I can do it”.

Jennifer Chen

Writing B
My Beautiful Dog

Two years ago, my life changed in just a few seconds. As always I and my friends went on a walk to the park. That day I was feeling a little sick, and my friends were talking about things that I was not interested in. Then, when I turned my head back, I saw a little puppy behind me. At first, I was surprised, but when I got close to the puppy, I was terrified because that puppy had just 3 paws, and his nose was bleeding a lot. I tried not to look at the puppy because that dog looked miserable and sad. I decided to leave him alone. I just kept walking very fast, but I couldn’t get the image of these sad black eyes out of my mind. I took a deep breath and turned back to see the puppy with his tongue out and his nose bleeding. I couldn’t resist the feeling to help him and nurse him back to health. Quickly, I called my friends; they helped me to carry the puppy while I was trying to give him some water. I took him home. The puppy had lived with me ever since. Some people told me it was a very ugly dog and creepy animal because he had just 3 paws, but for me, he was very beautiful and special. He changed my life because every time I came home, he was always there waiting for me, playing between my legs and always thankful for all that I had been doing for him. I really loved all the time that I spent with him. He’s not with me anymore, but I will never forget that beautiful dog, my puppy, my friend, and “my sad black eyes”. Thinking of him gives me much comfort and brings me a lot of joys.

Elva Rojas
Writing B

Highway One

Highway One is the most beautiful place I’ve ever been to. My husband and I were driving on Highway One when we came back from San Francisco last year. There are quiet and endless mountains on one side, and there are millions of green towering trees and delicate grasses growing on them. The mountains look as though they wear a colorful jacket. There’s some campsites hiding in the plush green forests. Sheer cliffs, the blue Pacific Ocean, and white sandy beaches are on the other side. A lot of brown shrubs grow on the beach. The white waves lap on the rocks. The pure white clouds are as cotton floating in the blue sky. Everything looks clean and clear. It made me feel peaceful and relaxed. It also made me very excited because I’ve never seen such beautiful natural scenery before. It just likes a gorgeous nymph. In an instant, I felt like I was in heaven. Time stood still. Everything was so beautiful. I couldn’t help crying all the way home. It’s my favorite and never to be forgotten.

Xuejiao Chen
Writing B (3)
Managing Your Study Time
By Dr. Mangrum & Dr. Strichart

There are only so many hours in a day, a week, and a term. You cannot change the number of hours, but you can decide how to best use them. To be successful in school, you must carefully manage your study time. Here is a strategy for doing this.

Prepare a Term Calendar
At the beginning of a term, prepare a Term Calendar. Update it as the term goes on. Here is what to do to prepare a Term Calendar.

- Record your school assignments with their due dates and your scheduled tests.
- Record your planned school activities.
- Record your known out-of-school activities.

Prepare a Weekly Schedule
Each Sunday before a school week, prepare a Weekly Schedule. Update it as the week goes on. Here is what to do to prepare a Weekly Schedule.

- Record your daily classes.
- Enter things to be done for the coming week from your Term Calendar.
- Review your class notes from the previous week to see if you need to add any school activities.
- Add any out-of-school activities in which you will be involved during the week.
- Be sure to include times for completing assignments, working on projects, and studying for tests. These times may be during the school day, right after school, evenings, and weekends.

Prepare a Daily Organizer
Each evening before a school day, prepare a Daily Organizer for the next day. Place a √ next to each thing to do as you accomplish it. Here is what to do to prepare a Daily Organizer.

- Enter the things to do for the coming day from your Weekly Schedule.
- Enter the things that still need to be accomplished from your Daily Organizer from the previous day.
- Review your class notes for the day just completed to see if you need to add any school activities.
- Add any out-of-school activities in which you will be involved the next day.

Your Weekly Schedule should have more detail than your Term Calendar. Your Daily Organizer should have more detail than your Weekly Schedule. Using a Term Calendar, a Weekly Schedule, and a Daily Organizer will help you make the best use of your time.

(Source: www.mangrum-strichart.com)
How to Be A Successful Student

1. **Work hard.** You can't be lazy if you want to be successful in school.

2. **Be punctual.** Develop the habit of judging time and learn how to arrive where you need to be on time.

3. **Work honestly.** That means, do your own work, don't copy, don't cheat. It only cheating yourself when later you can't do the things you were supposed to learn.

4. **Do the homework or assignments.** Get help from the teacher if you need to, and if you don't like the work, or can't find time, also talk to the teacher.

5. **Learn about your own style of learning!** Find out what's your best method, and try to apply it to your studies.

6. **Use common sense.** Realize what the class is about, what the work is supposed to teach you, how you should handle yourself with the other students.

7. **Learn how to schedule your life and time to balance school work and other parts of your day.** You can't do everything, and going out at night will surely take time away from studying or that deadline.

8. **Talk to the teachers.** If you show them you are honest and serious, or need help, they will usually respond well and offer to guide you as needed. But don't think the teacher will just pity you and excuse your poor work.

9. **Read the books.** If you are having reading trouble, talk to the teacher, guidance counselor, librarian, lab helper, etc. for ways to improve your reading skills.

10. **Study throughout the term.** Don't wait until days before the final test to study.

11. **Find a serious study partner and sit together at school or home.** This partner doesn't distract you, he/she encourages you and helps

12. **Get an extra tutor if you really need help**

13. **Remember your educational goals.** If you can't really think of any, talk to a career counselor and learn what kind of education you will really need to get the salary or job you want.

(Source: www.studentsuccess.com)
Do you want to practice learning English outside your classroom? Then stop by the Language Learning Center, also known as the LLC, located in the Learning Technology Building (Bldg. 6).

The Language Learning Center has a large variety of language learning software, videos, DVD’s and recordings to improve listening, speaking, and pronunciation skills.

To find out more you can also visit the website and see the number of audio, video, internet and software resources available for the different levels by clicking in the Resource Link and selecting the LLC Materials/ESL. www.llc.mtsac.edu

To use the Language Learning Center, you must register at the ESL Registration Counter in Building 66 and you will also need to have your Mt. SAC Student ID Card.

Hope to see you there!

ESL Scholarship

Many students walk past the recycle bin located on the first floor of building 66 unaware that the money that comes from collecting those items is used for scholarships to ESL students who will be taking Credit classes!

The instructors who do all the work need help! Do you have extra time to help out the ESL Scholarship Committee? Now is your chance to use your time for a good cause. To be part of this important group that assists your fellow classmates financially, you may contact Michael Ngo, John Pellitteri or Bertha Rodriguez on how to get started.

All of us can make a difference, so don’t forget to RECYCLE, RECYCLE, RECYCLE— it’s good for the environment, it’s good for you! Put your cans and bottles into our recycling bin and help a student continue with their education. Who knows it might be you!