

**The Center for English as a Second Language
The University of Arizona
Capability Statement**

The Center for English as a Second Language (CESL) of the University of Arizona has been in operation since 1968. Its capabilities, in support of its mission, fall into three areas: English language instruction, professional development, and encouraging linguistic and cultural diversity.

CESL is the only nationally accredited intensive English program (IEP) in the state of Arizona. CESL's accreditation is through the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA), which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education for English Language Program accreditation. In order to earn this honor, all aspects of the CESL Intensive English Program, including academic affairs, business affairs, and student services, were closely examined and assessed to ensure that CESL is meeting its mission. Part of the process included a site visit by CEA. After examining hundreds of supporting documents, the results of all interviews and other information gathered during the site visit, a panel of CEA experts awarded CESL full accreditation in April 2004 and 10 years re-accreditation in May 2009. CEA accreditation means on-going self study and review towards constantly enhancing the language program and all its services. In 2012, CESL is seeking center-wide accreditation for all recurring programs.

English Language Instruction

One part of CESL's mission is to provide superior English language instruction to native speakers of other languages through quality teaching and a curriculum that provides a rich and engaging learning environment to prepare students for academic and professional success at the University of Arizona as well as for other academic, professional, and social settings.

CESL's English language instruction capabilities include offering quality full-time, intensive language training. CESL offers schedules of 3, 4, 8, and 16 week programs year round. Full-time students take at least 22 hours of instruction weekly. The CESL curriculum is systematically reviewed and updated in order to keep instruction and course offerings in step with current pedagogical theory and second language acquisition research. Typical intensive course offerings include Speaking and Listening (SL), Writing, Reading, and Grammar.

Courses are offered at many levels of proficiency. Upon arrival, students are given a placement assessment during the orientation period. The results of this assessment are used to place students in one of several levels of instruction. CESL faculty further assess each student's abilities during the first days of class to ensure correct placement. Student progress in classes is measured against learning outcomes for each skill and level. Students successfully completing the program receive a grade for each course, a language proficiency report, and a certificate of attendance.

CESL also offers part-time English programs in the evening at CESL and in Nogales, Arizona and flexible programs offered around the Tucson community, as well as offering online classes to students remotely. Students may choose from a variety of courses in general English, Business English, Academic or Business Writing, and test preparation. Students earn certificates of participation for each course completed. In addition, students may take courses in specific combinations to earn a Program Certificate in Academic English or Business English. Students can also take individual tutoring, small-group classes, or on-demand large-group classes in the daytime or evening.

Students in the Intensive English Program at CESL have the opportunity to take online academic workshops throughout the school year. These workshops focus on different aspects of the US university culture and academic skills development. Students can also choose to participate in the Independent Reading Program (IRP) through the CESL library. Students do outside, self-directed reading and receive awards for reading a predetermined number of books during a semester.

In addition to regular programs offered at the University of Arizona, CESL has provided numerous customized programs for groups of students in Tucson or abroad. These special programs take a variety of forms and can easily be customized to fit the needs of the group or sponsoring agency. CESL can provide general English language training or training for a specific purpose. For a representative sample of all special programs at CESL, click [here](#). To submit a request for proposal for a customized program, please visit our link to [Customized Programs for Individuals or Groups](#), complete and submit the appropriate form. CESL considers all proposals that may also include consulting or program evaluation, where CESL sends a team of its experts to help establish or improve ESL/EFL programs anywhere in the world. Those interested in implementing our curriculum or seeking our certificates should use the link on our Customized Programs page linked above.

Professional Development

Another aspect of CESL's mission is to serve the linguistic and professional development needs of the University of Arizona and the greater global community by reaching out to global professional and local communities, supporting research in language learning, networking with language teaching professionals, and mentoring teachers.

CESL is capable of providing outstanding professional development for different kinds of educators. Many of CESL's special programs relate to professional development for new and experienced teachers. CESL offers two tracks towards a certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language. Trainees can either take 2 online courses, completing a practicum between them, or they can take the 100-hour full TEFL in the summer and complete all of the work and a practicum in the course of four weeks.

As part of its professional development program, CESL offers courses in teacher education offering customized training depending on the goals of the teachers. As with English language training, CESL is capable of offering customized teacher development

projects and teacher program development support and consulting either at the University of Arizona or abroad. CESL faculty and administrators have traveled around the world offering workshops and training seminars for language professionals. English language instructors from many countries have come to CESL for further training.

As part of a research university, CESL provides opportunities for graduate students and scholars to conduct research in the CESL environment. Research requests must be presented to and approved by the Director. To submit a research proposal or learn more about doing research at CESL, click [here](#).

Encouraging linguistic and cultural diversity

One final aspect of the CESL mission is to encourage respect for cultural and linguistic diversity through intercultural competence, professionalism, and collaboration both on and off campus in an effort to promote cultural understanding.

CESL's capabilities extend to promoting the benefits of intercultural competence and cultural diversity. CESL students regularly visit K-12 schools. Once each year, CESL holds an *International Festival* to which the Tucson community is invited. The Festival includes cultural displays from numerous countries and interactive activities such as singing, dancing, painting, and game playing. CESL also has an active conversation partner program in which students from different nationalities come together to converse informally and holds events such as international panel discussions in order to promote international dialog about important issues.

Students at CESL have opportunities on their own to participate in numerous university and community events, including club meetings, presentations, field trips, and cultural events in progression towards earning two CESL scholarship awards: the Director's Award and the Global Student Award.

Summary

CESL is capable of providing outstanding English language instruction through our regular programs and through customized programs. CESL can also provide teacher training for both new and experienced teachers, and English language program consulting and program evaluation at CESL or in other locations around the world. Finally, CESL supports participation in its programs that encourage respect for cultural and linguistic diversity. Together these capabilities make CESL a leader in the field of English language teaching and global awareness.