Do you hold a university degree from your home country and need greater English proficiency to practice your profession?

Or are you thinking about pursuing a university degree?

The English Language Study Center (ELSC) at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, offers classes and support services that can help you achieve your academic and professional goals.

English Language Study Center Faculty and Support Services

ELL faculty members at Penn State Behrend are highly qualified professionals who hold advanced degrees in linguistics, applied linguistics, and TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages). These faculty members have a cumulative fifty years’ experience teaching English language learners in the United States and at schools and universities around the world, and their shared passion is helping their students to learn and achieve.

Penn State Behrend’s ELL support programs include:

• an Office of International Students
• BEAM, a peer mentoring program for English language learners
• the Learning Resource Center (for faculty and peer tutoring)
• free online tools for improving English skills
• an Office of Adult Learner Services
• the Office of Community and Workforce Programs
• the John M. Lilley Library
• an intensive English Language Summer Institute in Erie (ELSIE)

The English Language Study Center is an integral part of the B.A. in English degree’s Writing Program within Penn State Behrend’s School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

For more information, contact:
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Improve your English, improve your opportunities.

Welcome to the English Language Study Center (ELSC)! The center is a beautiful and peaceful place for you to visit, relax, share a cup of tea, play a game of backgammon, meet your faculty members, find tutoring help, and even add your picture to our Wall of Fame. We are excited for you to spend time with us.

The ELSC building is located near Penn State Behrend’s Health and Wellness Center.

Free Tutoring!
Extra help in reading and writing is available to all multilingual students at the English Language Study Center (ELSC) and through Penn State Behrend’s Learning Resource Center (LRC). We are happy to work with you one-on-one outside of class to help you improve your skills.

Visit the ELSC and see how we can assist you!

Specifically, the English Language Study Center can help you to improve

Writing
Classwork and tutoring will help you write clear, grammatically correct sentences.

Listening and Speaking
Classwork and mentoring promote better fluency and pronunciation.

Reading
Classwork and support can improve your reading speed and comprehension. These skills also help build your vocabulary.

Culture and Conversation Skills
Knowledge and strategies that can help you understand and adapt to American culture.

Course Offerings

For Degree-Seeking Students
The ELSC offers four for-credit classes that meet Penn State’s General Education requirements:

- ENGL 015 Rhetoric and Composition for Multilingual Students helps advanced non-native English speakers to develop American academic skills in reading and writing and fulfills Penn State’s composition requirement.
- AM ST 100 Introduction to American Studies discusses American culture, past and present.
- CM LIT 153 International Cultures: Film and Literature compares global narrative and artistic techniques.
- CM LIT/ENGL 184 The Short Story emphasizes global literature in translation.

ENGL 004 Basic Composition for Multilingual Students helps intermediate-level non-native speakers of English to improve their grammar and writing skills in preparation for future American academic writing assignments. This course is an elective and does not meet General Education requirements.

For Students About to Enter College
Penn State Behrend is home to the English Language Summer Institute in Erie (ELSIE). ELSIE offers you outstanding instruction in academic English communication to prepare you for undergraduate study at any American university. Experienced faculty will engage you in a comprehensive and exciting curriculum that includes reading, writing, grammar, oral communication, listening, and hands-on, discipline-based projects. In addition, there are opportunities for you to connect with Penn State students who will share with you their experiences at an American university.

For Nondegree-Seeking Students
The ELSC often offers noncredit evening classes in reading, writing, and spoken communication. Call or email us to request a schedule.

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