English Language Programs, INTO UAB

INTO UAB

At INTO UAB, international students join a supportive community committed to helping them integrate with ease into American university life while preparing for degree studies. Unique programs help improve academic and English language skills, and helpful faculty and staff ensure students adjust to life in the US. Students studying in the INTO UAB Center have all the benefits of campus life at an American university. Living and learning in the heart of UAB’s campus, international students develop friendships with American and international students and have access to all of the academic, social and cultural resources and activities at The University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Pathway Programs

INTO UAB offers academic Pathway programs designed to prepare students to progress with confidence to UAB undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

Academic English Program

The Academic English program at INTO UAB prepares international students for university study in the US. This academically rigorous program provides international students with high-quality English language instruction and the academic skills to succeed at UAB through development of:

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing
- Vocabulary and pronunciation skills
- Correct grammar usage
- Academic study skills

Program Highlights

- Intensive English instruction to prepare for university study
- Academic advising and support throughout the program
- Small class sizes
- Highly trained and experienced instructors

Program Courses

Level 1-2

- Integrated Skills
- Vocabulary Building
- Writing
- Reading

Level 3-5

- Grammar in Use
- Academic Listening and Speaking
- Academic Reading
- Academic Writing

Program Outcomes

After finishing this intensive program, successful students will be able to:

- Interact comfortably in the US classroom with professors and fellow students
- Understand US values in an academic setting
- Present their spoken and written ideas accurately and effectively in English
- Write research papers with proper use of citations and references
- Use the internet and UAB libraries databases to conduct academic research
- Read, understand and critically evaluate academic texts
- Understand and use vocabulary common to academic disciplines
- Take useful and accurate notes in academic lectures and presentations
- Develop and deliver oral presentations

Understand the Pathway Program

INTO UAB’s Undergraduate Pathway program combines intensive language study, academic skills development and academic coursework in a program designed to move students successfully through the first year of their four-year degree program of study in the US.

The Undergraduate Pathway program is for students who:

- Want to study for an undergraduate degree in the US
- Desire additional academic, language and cultural support in order to succeed during the first year at a US university
- May need to improve English language skills
- May have a lower GPA than required for direct admission to degree program
- Meet any or all of the above criteria

In addition to intensive English instruction, Pathway students take core academic courses including math, science, writing and other courses required of all students, domestic and international. All Undergraduate Pathway courses are UAB credit-bearing courses. Undergraduate Pathway programs are available in the fall, spring and summer semesters. Some programs will require taking courses in the summer in order to complete the degree in four years. Programs such as engineering may require a fifth year to complete a bachelor’s degree.

Program Benefits

Pathway students receive the highest level of support during their transition abroad, making the program an ideal choice for international students who are driven to achieve high academic goals. Other benefits include:

- Guaranteed progression to a UAB degree program (upon successful completion of a Pathway program)
- Full integration with domestic and international students on the UAB campus
- Access to all UAB cultural events, athletic events and activities including UAB’s state-of-the-art recreation center
- Classrooms and accommodations in the heart of UAB’s compact and accessible campus with shopping, dining and other services located nearby
- Individual supplemental tutoring
• Highly trained and experienced university instructors
• Academic advising throughout the program

Prepare for Success
At the end of the first year, Pathway students should be able to:
• Communicate effectively in written and spoken English
• Interact fully with professors and fellow students in a US classroom setting
• Understand research, reference and citation standards for American academic papers
• Use on-campus technology including computer hardware and software
• Read, comprehend and critically evaluate academic texts and problems
• Take useful and accurate notes in academic lectures

Undergraduate Pathway Programs
• Business
• Computer and Information Science
• Engineering
• General Studies
• Public Health
• Science

Graduate Pathway
The innovative Graduate Pathway Programs offered at INTO UAB are designed to develop international students’ academic knowledge and strengthen their language ability and study skills, enabling them to progress successfully to a UAB graduate degree program.

There are two Pathway options for students with the equivalent of a four-year undergraduate bachelor’s degree:

Standard Pathway (two semesters)
• Students with an equivalent four-year bachelor’s degree and TOEFL iBT 65+, IELTS 5.5 or completion of Academic English Level 4.

Accelerated Pathway (one semester)
• Students with an equivalent four-year bachelor’s degree and TOEFL iBT 80+, IELTS 6.5

Decide If the Program Is Right for You
The Graduate Pathway program is for students who:
• Want to study for a graduate degree in the US
• Desire additional academic, language and cultural support in order to succeed during the first year at a US university
• May need to improve English language skills
• May have a lower GPA than required for direct admission to degree program
• Meet any or all of the above criteria

Graduate Pathway Programs at UAB:
• Master of Science in Biotechnology
• Master of Business Administration (MBA)
• Master of Science in Computer Science
• Master of Science in Data Science
• Master of Science in Civil Engineering
• Master of Science in Electrical Engineering
• Master of Science in Materials Engineering
• Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering
• Master of Engineering Management
• Master of Science in Public Health
• Master of Science in Cyber Security
• Master of Public Administration
• Master of Arts in TESOL
• Master of Educational Studies
• Master of Physics

Courses
ELI 011. Reading Level I. 0 Hours.
Students will learn reading skills to get meaning from simple non-fiction, non-academic texts in English. Students will learn general vocabulary. Objectives: Students will read at least 14 non-fiction non-academic texts of up to 200 words in English. The texts are written for use with Level 1 students. Students will learn and practice basic reading skills and strategies, text analysis, and vocabulary skills. Students will learn the form, meaning, and pronunciation of vocabulary in the readings.

ELI 012. Integrated Skills I. 0 Hours.
Grammar, vocabulary, speaking, and listening will be learned and practiced together. Students will learn form, meaning, and pronunciation of simple present, simple past, present continuous, and going to; nouns, adjectives and adverbs. They will practice this language in spoken and written activities. Students will learn and practice form, meaning, and pronunciation of basic vocabulary. They will learn basic speaking skills through practice of grammar and vocabulary in communicative activities. Students will develop basic listening skills to get meaning from classroom and recorded speech that uses the grammar and vocabulary.

ELI 013. Vocabulary Building. 0 Hours.
Students will learn basic vocabulary that is useful in daily life, in topic groups including time & calendar, daily activities, family, weather, clothes, food, furniture, and places in town. Students will learn the meaning, pronunciation, and form (spelling, part of speech, plurals and non-count, collocations, and phrasal verbs) of the words.

ELI 014. Writing Level I. 0 Hours.
Students will complete at least 10 paragraphs of up to 100 words. Paragraphs will eventually include topic and supporting sentences. Students will follow the process of generating content, analyzing models, organizing content, and writing drafts with teacher, peer, and self-editing. Students will learn and practice Level 1 mechanics, grammar, sentence structure, and functional language for content area.

ELI 015. Support for Beginners. 0 Hours.
This course is designed to support Level Pre-1 students in their outcomes for ELC 013 Vocabulary Building 1 and ELC 012 Integrated Skills 1.
ELI 021. Reading Level 2. 0 Hours.
Goals: Students will develop reading skills to get meaning from non-fiction academic and simplified academic texts in English. Students will learn general vocabulary. Students will read at least 12 non-fiction academic and simplified academic texts of up to 400 words in English. Texts are graded for use with Level 2 students. Students will learn and practice general reading skills and strategies, text analysis, and vocabulary skills. Students will learn the form, meaning, and pronunciation of vocabulary in the readings.

ELI 022. Integrated Skills: Grammar, Listening and Speaking Level II. 0 Hours.
Grammar, vocabulary, speaking, and listening will be learned and practiced together. Students will improve their use simple present, simple past, present continuous, and going to; and learn present perfect, present continuous for future, comparatives and superlatives, modals, quantifiers, and basic infinitives and gerunds. They will practice language in spoken and written activities. Students will learn and practice form, meaning, and pronunciation of general vocabulary. They will develop their speaking fluency through communicative activities, and their listening skills to get meaning from classroom and recorded speech. Students will also develop their writing skills through communicative activities.

ELI 023. Vocabulary Building Level 2. 0 Hours.
Students will learn vocabulary that is useful in daily life, in topic groups including personality, emotions, health, emergencies, errands, workplace, geography, hobbies & sports, and transportation. Students will learn the meaning, pronunciation, and form (spelling, part of speech, plurals and non-count, collocations, and phrasal verbs) of the words.

ELI 024. Writing Level II. 0 Hours.
Students will complete at least 4 academic paragraphs of up to 120 words. Paragraphs will include topic, supporting, and concluding sentences. Students will follow the process of generating content, analyzing models, outlining, and writing 2 drafts with teacher, peer, & self-editing. Students will learn and practice mechanics, grammar, sentence structure, and functional language for paragraph genre.

ELI 031. Academic Reading Level III. 0 Hours.
Students will read at least 12 non-fiction academic texts of 600-1000 words in English. Texts are those graded for use with Level 3 students, and authentic articles and excerpts. Students will learn and practice basic academic reading skills and strategies, text analysis, and vocabulary skills. Students will learn the form, meaning, and pronunciation of vocabulary in the readings.

ELI 032. Speaking and Listening Skills Level III. 0 Hours.
Students will develop their speaking skills to communicate in groups, and give short presentations on general and simplified academic topics. Students will develop their listening skills to get meaning and take notes on graded & authentic conversations and academic lectures. Students will learn basic academic vocabulary on listening and speaking topics. Speaking and listening skills and vocabulary will be studied together with 4 popular and academic topics. Students will develop their communicative speaking skills in topic-based interactive activities. They will give at least 4 short presentations with attention to non-verbal communication. They will receive feedback on their pronunciation and grammar use. Students will listen to at least 4 graded and authentic recorded conversations and academic lectures. They will learn basic lecture note-taking skills with guided outlines. Students will learn form, meaning, & pronunciation of topic vocabulary.

ELI 033. Grammar: Using English Accurately Level III. 0 Hours.
Students will develop their ability to accurately use verb tenses, and relative clauses. Students will apply this grammar in speaking and expository writing. Students will learn form, meaning, and pronunciation of all English verb tenses in contrast. They will learn restrictive and non-restrictive subject and object relative clauses. Students will practice this language in written and spoken controlled exercises, and apply it in freer written and spoken activities.

ELI 034. Academic Writing III. 0 Hours.
Students will learn to write short academic essays. Students will complete 4 academic essays of at least 250 words in these genres: descriptive, comparison, opinion, and narrative. Essays will include introduction, body (1-2), and conclusion paragraphs. Students will follow the process of generating content, analyzing models, outlining, and writing 2 drafts with teacher, peer, and self-editing. Students will learn and practice Level 3 language, including adverb and adjective clauses, and functional language for essay genre.

ELI 041. Academic Reading Level IV. 0 Hours.
Students will develop reading skills to get meaning from non-fiction academic texts and fiction in English. Students will learn academic vocabulary. Students will read at least 12 texts, including non-fiction academic texts and fiction of 800-1200 words in English. Texts are authentic articles and excerpts. Students will develop their academic reading skills and strategies, text analysis, and vocabulary skills. Students will learn the form, meaning, and pronunciation of vocabulary in the readings.

ELI 042. Speaking Listening Skills Level IV. 0 Hours.
Students will develop their speaking skills to communicate spontaneously in groups, and give presentations on academic topics. Students will develop their listening skills to get meaning from and take notes on authentic conversations and academic lectures. Students will learn academic vocabulary contextualized in the listening and speaking topics. Speaking and listening skills and vocabulary will be integrated into 4 academic topics. Students will develop their communicative speaking skills in interactive activities. They will prepare and give at least 4 presentations, with attention to organization and basic visual aids. They will receive feedback on their grammar use and pronunciation. Students will listen to at least 4 authentic recorded conversations and academic lectures, and develop their lecture note-taking skills with guided outlines. Students will learn the form, meaning, and pronunciation of topic vocabulary.

ELI 043. Grammar: Using English Accurately Level IV. 0 Hours.
Students will learn and develop their ability to accurately use modals, gerunds and infinitives, articles and nouns, passives, and conditionals. Students will apply this grammar in speaking and expository writing. Students will learn form, meaning, and pronunciation of modals including past, gerunds and infinitives, nouns and article use, passives in all tenses, and conditionals. Students will practice this language in written and spoken controlled exercises, and apply it in freer written and spoken activities.

ELI 044. Academic Writing IV. 0 Hours.
Students will learn to write longer and more developed academic essays. Objectives: Students will complete 3 academic essays of at least 450 words in these genres: classification, cause/effect, and argument. Essays will include introduction, 3 or more body paragraphs, and conclusion paragraph. Students will follow the process of generating content, analyzing models, outlining, and writing 3 drafts with teacher, peer, and self-editing. Students will learn and practice Level 4 language, including adverb and adjective clauses, and functional language for essay genre.
ELI 051. Academic Reading Level V. 0 Hours.
Goals: Students will expand their reading skills to get meaning from non-fiction academic texts in English. Students will learn academic vocabulary. Objectives: Students will read at least 12 non-fiction academic texts of up to 800-2000 words in English. Texts are authentic articles or excerpts. Students will expand their academic reading skills and strategies, text analysis, and vocabulary skills. Students will learn the form, meaning, and pronunciation of vocabulary in the readings.

ELI 052. Oral Communication Level V. 0 Hours.
Goals: Students will expand their speaking skills to communicate spontaneously on academic topics in small groups, and give professional presentations on academic topics. Students will expand their listening skills to extract meaning from and take notes on authentic academic conversations and lectures. Students will learn academic vocabulary contextualized in the listening and speaking topics. Objectives: Speaking and listening skills and vocabulary will be integrated into 4 academic topics. Students will expand their communicative speaking skills in interactive activities with academic topics and tasks. They will prepare and give at least 4 presentations, with focus on organization and visual aids. They will receive feedback on their grammar and pronunciation. Students will listen to at least 4 authentic recorded conversations and 4 academic lectures, and generate their own lecture note-taking outlines. Students will learn the form, meaning, and pronunciation of contextualized vocabulary.

ELI 053. Using English Accurately Level V. 0 Hours.
Goals: Students will expand their ability to use grammar common to academic contexts such as cause & effect, compare & contrast, narrative, problem & solution, and persuasion. They will apply new and revised grammar in speaking and expository writing in these contexts. Objectives: Students will learn new grammar, and expand on known grammar commonly used in specific academic contexts. They will focus on form, meaning, and pronunciation of various tenses, sentence structures, and functional language used to speak and write academically. Students will practice this language in spoken and written controlled exercises, and apply it in speaking in groups and presentations, and writing in academic contexts.

ELI 054. Academic Writing Level V. 0 Hours.
Goals: Students will develop skills to write academic research papers. Students will develop their citing, quoting, paraphrasing, and summarizing skills, and learn APA format for external sources. They will learn to integrate source information into their essays. Objectives: Students will write 2 research papers of 500-750 words. For an expository essay, students will develop evaluative criteria, conduct on-line research, generate content, outline, and write 2 drafts with teacher, peer, and self-editing. For a reporting essay, students will read published sources on a medical problem, write a rough and detailed outline, and 2 drafts with teacher, peer, and self-editing. Students will expand their ability to quote, paraphrase, and summarize, and learn APA citation format. Students will expand their reading ability and use complex sentence structures.

ELI 061. Special Programs in Speaking and Listening. 0 Hours.
Students practice extensive speaking, including pronunciation instruction and feedback, teaching on conversation strategies, and discussions about culturally relevant topics. Students also practice listening skills in this interactive environment through podcasts, videos, and other media with a particular emphasis on note taking skills. Vocabulary building is incorporated into this class and emphasizes American expressions and current idioms, which enables students to understand informal English with greater fluency. In addition, class discussions usher in a deeper analysis of American culture.

ELI 062. Special Programs Using Grammar in Conversation. 0 Hours.
Grammar in practice means using English accurately, not simply knowing English grammar rules for a test. The Grammar in Conversation class emphasizes accuracy and fluency. Students review some of the most common grammatical errors in spoken English, including those that frequently impede comprehensibility, and then practice producing the forms accurately in fluent speech. In this way, this class supports previous grammar study but also capitalizes on the possibilities for fluency practice that a short-term immersion program provides.

ELI 063. Special Programs Reading and Writing. 0 Hours.
Grammar in practice means using English accurately, not simply knowing English grammar rules for a test. The Grammar in Conversation class emphasizes accuracy and fluency. Students review some of the most common grammatical errors in spoken English, including those that frequently impede comprehensibility, and then practice producing the forms accurately in fluent speech. In this way, this class supports previous grammar study but also capitalizes on the possibilities for fluency practice that a short-term immersion program provides.

ELI 071. Pronunciation/Accent Training I. 0 Hours.
This course focuses on improving your American English pronunciation and accent. The desired outcome of this course is that your speech will be more easily understood by speakers of English.

ELI 072. Pronunciation/Accent Training II. 0 Hours.
This course focuses on continuing to improve your American English pronunciation and accent through practicing previously studied skills in active conversation. The primary desired outcome of this course is that your accent will be more easily understood by speakers of English. The secondary outcome is that you will be more comfortable and fluent when speaking in English.

ELI 075. Business Listening and Speaking. 0 Hours.
This course is designed to improve students' business English skills. In particular, listening and speaking skills will be the focus of this course. Business professionals or persons presently working in the U.S. will benefit from the speaking and listening skills learned in this class. The class will also feature business-related vocabulary, idioms, and culture discussions.

ELI 076. Business Writing Skills. 3 Hours.
The following are objectives for this course: Improve understanding of the different types of business writing and appropriate use of each type (business letters, emails, memos, reports, cover letters, resumes, proposals); enhance familiarity with common business letter formats, the various parts of a business letter and the purpose of each part; create business English writing that is clear, concise and specific; learn techniques of self-editing; improve the following grammar skills: use of articles, prepositions, gerunds and infinitives, contractions, comma usage, punctuation, recognition of sentence fragments, and appropriate use of adjectives and adverbs; and improve the following language usage skills: formal vs. informal language, linking fragments, numbers in writing, and accuracy of vocabulary.

ELI 091. Common Hour. 0 Hours.
This course is designed to provide additional support to students in the Intensive English Program. This course serves as an extended orientation that will help students integrate into campus life and navigate through cultural adjustment while learning about the USA/State/Local/ UAB cultures and procedures. The class is not a language learning class. The focus of the class is on knowledge. Translation help will be provided as needed.
ELI 101. Academic Writing for Non-Native English Speakers I. 3 Hours.
This course focuses on the development of various types of writing required in university courses. Becoming fluent in the organizational structure of writing in the American academic setting will be emphasized. In addition, grammar and mechanics are reviewed. Students will practice all aspects of the writing process: generating ideas, drafting, revising, and editing.

ELI 102. Academic Reading for Non-Native English Speakers II. 3 Hours.
This course expands academic reading skills and strategies, text analysis, and vocabulary skills for application in an academic environment. In addition, students will build academic vocabulary range through analyzing vocabulary contextualized in the readings. Students will expand their reading skills to extract meaning from non-fiction academic texts in English, which will feature authentic articles or excerpts.

ELI 111. Pathways to Success at UAB. 2 Hours.
This course is designed to provide additional support and extended orientation to students in the Academic English Program at UAB. Students will discover ways to integrate into campus life and navigate through cultural adjustment while learning about the USA/State/Local/UAB cultures and procedures.

ELI 112. Pronunciation Training. 2 Hours.
This course is designed to provide additional support to multi-lingual students learning English by focusing on the pronunciation of American English. Improvement in pronunciation will enable students to communicate more effectively in social and academic settings. Students will learn to identify and pronounce key vowel and consonant sounds that letter combinations in English make as well as the importance of sentence stress and rhythm in order to become more comprehensible to others.

ELI 113. US Culture and Context. 2 Hours.
This course will guide multi-lingual, adult learners of English through an exploration of cultural norms and US cultural contexts. Students will explore themselves as cultural beings and learn how to identify their own cultural values. Students will have opportunities to compare layers of US culture and contexts with their own cultures of origin. An emphasis on US academic culture will be included.

ELI 203. Academic Listening and Speaking for Non-Native English Speakers I. 3 Hours.
This course emphasizes the development and practice of speaking and listening skills necessary for successful communication in the university environment. Specifically, this course focuses on effective strategies for listening to lectures, participating in classroom discourse, and giving presentations. In addition, students will engage in oral fluency practice and pronunciation improvement.

ELI 205. Using English Skills for Academic Success. 3 Hours.
This course will build on previous courses and will provide a venue for structured practice with all academic English language skills, including reading, writing, speaking, and listening, in an integrated format for second-semester, INTO UAB undergraduate standard pathway students. Students will employ a variety of English skills in ways that will mimic what is expected in an actual undergraduate classroom format. The course will feature much feedback from the instructor to facilitate improvement; content will take into account the other courses in the pathway to maximize learning.

ELI 206. Accelerated English Skills for Academic Success. 3 Hours.
This course will provide a venue for structured practice with all academic English language skills, including reading, writing, speaking, and listening, in an integrated format for INTO UAB undergraduate accelerated pathway students. Students will employ a variety of English skills in ways that will mimic what is expected in an actual undergraduate classroom format, with the intention of accelerating transfer of English language skills to the American academic environment. The course will feature much feedback from the instructor to facilitate improvement; content will take into account the other courses in the pathway to maximize learning.

ELI 401. Academic Reading & Writing for the Graduate Student 1. 3 Hours.
This two-semester, multi-skill course, designed for non-native English speaking graduate students needing English language skill improvement, will focus on reading and writing skill development, with additional outcomes in improved grammar usage and vocabulary expansion. The course will emphasize academic reading skills and strategies and text analysis, using non-fiction academic texts in English, and it will also build academic vocabulary range through analyzing vocabulary contextualized in the readings. Then, students will use readings to practice various types of writing. Becoming fluent in the organizational structure of writing in the American academic setting will be emphasized, and grammar instruction will be addressed as needed. Students will practice all aspects of the writing process: generating ideas, drafting, revising, and editing.

ELI 402. Academic Speaking & Listening for the Graduate Student 1. 3 Hours.
This two-semester, multi-skill course, designed for non-native English speaking graduate students needing English language skill improvement, will focus on the development and practice of speaking and listening skills necessary for successful communication in the university environment, with additional outcomes related to pronunciation training. Specifically, this course focuses on effective strategies for listening to lectures, participating in classroom and general academic discourse, and giving presentations. In addition, the course provides a focus on pronunciation and opportunities for oral fluency practice.

ELI 403. Academic Reading & Writing for the Graduate Student 2. 3 Hours.
The second part of a two-semester, multi-skill course for non-native English speaking graduate students needing English language skill improvement, this course will continue building skills in reading, writing, grammar, and vocabulary for use in graduate coursework. Reading passages from authentic texts, as well as summarizing and paraphrasing passages from texts, will be included.

ELI 404. Academic Speaking & Listening for the Graduate Student 2. 3 Hours.
The second part of a two-semester, multi-skill course for non-native English speaking graduate students needing English language skill improvement, this course will build on the previous course in focusing on the development and practice of speaking and listening skills necessary for success in a graduate academic environment. The course will provide a venue for structured practice with these English language skills in an integrated format, as students mimic in class what transpires in the graduate classroom. The course will feature much feedback from the instructor to facilitate improvement, as well as an emphasis on pronunciation practice.
ELI 405. Academic Success and Research Skills for Intl Students. 3 Hours.
This course will provide a venue for structured practice with all academic English language skills, including reading, writing, speaking, and listening, in an integrated format for INTO UAB accelerated graduate pathway students. Students will employ a variety of English skills in ways that will mimic what is expected in an actual graduate classroom format, with the intention of accelerating transfer of English language skills to the American academic environment. The course will feature much feedback from the instructor to facilitate improvement.

ELI 495. Research & Success Skills for Intl Students. 3 Hours.
This course will provide a venue for structured practice with all academic English language skills, including reading, writing, speaking, and listening, in an integrated format for INTO UAB accelerated graduate pathway students. Students will employ a variety of English skills in ways that will mimic what is expected in an actual graduate classroom format, with the intention of accelerating transfer of English language skills to the American academic environment. The course will feature much feedback from the instructor to facilitate improvement.