

University of Kansas – Applied English Center

Proficiency Test Score	Course Placement
Total score <240	All courses in Level 1
Total score ≥240 but R/W <80	Level 1 S/L and GFC; Level 1C R/W
Total score 240-299	All courses in Level 2
Total score ≥300 Any part score <100	Level 2 course for any part <100; Level 3 or 4 courses for scores ≥100
Total score ≥300 Part score 100-125	Level 3 courses
Total score ≥300 Part score ≥126	Level 4 courses
All part scores ≥140	Level 5 course (ESLP 110)
Pass two parts + ≥140 in the third part OR grade of A/B in Level 4 + ≥140	Enrollment in Special Studies course(s) ESLP 122 (Speaking & Listening) ESLP 126 (Grammar for Communication) ESLP 128 (Reading & Writing)
Part score ≥160	not required; ready for academic study

Proficiency Descriptor Scale for Level Placement

Written Interpretation of Proficiency Scale

Students take the parts of the AEC Proficiency Test as required in:

Listening:	Two parts: general listening and academic listening
Reading and Writing:	Two parts: multiple choice reading test; short answer writing based on reading and note-taking
Grammar for Communication:	Two parts: Sentence-level guided paraphrase and 30 minute timed essay

Scoring

Each section is scored 0 – 200 points
Maximum Proficiency Test point total: 600 points

Course Placement Decisions

Final decisions are based on the scores to the left along with instructor input based on course performance towards objectives.

Courses:

S/L	Speaking and Listening
R/W	Reading and Writing
GFC	Grammar for Communication

NB: Students can be concurrently enrolled in the AEC and KU courses (if admitted or academically eligible for admission) after passing one or more sections of the Proficiency Test; this occurs after Level 2.

LEVEL I UPPER ELEMENTARY	LEVEL II LOW INTERMEDIATE	LEVEL III UPPER INTERMEDIATE	LEVEL IV ADVANCED	LEVEL V VERY ADVANCED
<p>On successful completion of Level 1, students are beginning students who have had little or no English, or who have forgotten English they studied before. They have some ability in speaking and listening on familiar everyday topics, but are not very accurate or fluent. They can write sentences and paragraphs with basic features. Reading ability is slow and limited to short passages. Grammar production and understanding is at simple levels. Some areas of English may be stronger or weaker.</p> <p>Readiness for Academic Study Students successfully completing Level 1 typically need three or more semesters (later terms in part-time study) of English before they are ready to study at KU.</p>	<p>On successful completion of Level 2, students are low-intermediate and need general improvement in all areas of English, but may have one skill more highly-developed than the rest. They can typically talk with native speakers in most social settings, and are using contractions in speaking. They can take notes on short, simple academic talks. They can read paragraphs and texts on common topics and simple academic subjects. They can write paragraphs and simple academic essays. Grammar production and understanding is upper-elementary, and (simple, compound and complex sentences) and they are beginning to use auxiliaries. Their use of English is often more effective in social than in academic settings.</p> <p>Readiness for Academic Study Students successfully completing Level 2 typically need two to three more semesters (later terms in part-time study) before they are ready to begin an academic program</p>	<p>On successful completion of Level 3, students are high-intermediate, and typically are approaching readiness for academic study but still have significant weaknesses in using their English skills. They can converse with native speakers, starting and ending conversations, asking questions and expressing opinions and differing points of view. They can take notes in different organizational styles on short academic presentations from a variety of disciplines. In reading, they can identify thesis statements, main ideas and supporting points, and understand the relationships among them. They can write in a variety of academic formats and use a wide variety of grammatical structures to summarize, synthesize and paraphrase. They can write an academic essay from research sources.</p> <p>Readiness for Academic Study Students successfully completing Level 3 typically need one or two more semesters (often part-time study) before they are ready to begin an academic program</p>	<p>On successful completion of Level 4, students are low-advanced, and are nearly ready for academic study. They have a high overall level of general proficiency but may have noticeable weaknesses in one or more areas. They can participate easily in conversations and discussions on general or academic topics and ask questions for clarification. They speak at appropriate levels for their audience, and can self-correct errors in speaking. They can take effective notes on academic talks and lectures, and identify important and unimportant information. In reading, they can work with academic texts, and identify the organizational pattern of long texts and frequently guess meaning of words from context. They can write papers up to 3 pages in academic format with research support in a variety of styles (e.g., evaluation, summary, explanation). They can express the same idea in a variety of grammatical ways.</p> <p>Readiness for Academic Study Students successfully completing Level 4 are typically ready for at least part-time academic work, and many are ready for full-time academic work.</p>	<p>On successful completion of Level 5, students are very advanced in English language study and typically are enrolled in part-time academic work. They have a very high overall level of general proficiency. They can participate easily in conversations of both an academic and non-academic nature, and self-correct oral grammar and pronunciation errors, although some will still go undetected. They speak fluently and clearly. With normal preparation, they can listen and take notes on lectures in academic courses. In reading, they can read and manage the demands of academic textbooks. They can research and write academic papers of several pages, taking and defending a position with appropriate support. Written grammatical errors will still occur, but will not impede meaning, and they can understand and accurately produce grammatical structures expected of a college freshman.</p> <p>Readiness for Academic Study Students successfully completing Level 5 are typically ready for full-time academic work.</p>