



University of New York, Tirana

ESL Placement and Advancement Policy

Background: Pursuing studies at UNYT requires aptitude in academic English use, as well as critical, analytical, and synthesizing abilities. A group of highly specialized native and non-native English-speaking faculty and state-of-the-art resources guarantees that students get high-quality language education to prepare them for a full-fledged academic program at UNYT.

Placement: While UNYT adheres to open-access policies, however, according to the regulations of the Ministry of Education, students are required to present an international English proficiency certificate recognized by the Ministry of Education at the B2 level as a requirement for entrance to the university. In the absence of this certificate, a diagnostic test for freshmen at the entry level will determine the student's level in English so that students get the instruction they need. Students not at the required readiness level of English to attend an entire academic program are classified into either one of ESL levels (ESL I, ESL II) (ESL I, ESL II are non-credit-bearing courses. Institutional language placement is based on the successful completion of an exam. No test will be administered for these registered students after classes begin.

APTIS Score Range /CEFR Level	Program	Hours of Weekly Instruction
A1-A2	ESL I Elementary-Pre-Intermediate	12 hrs / week
A2-B1	ESL II Intermediate-Upper Intermediate	12 hrs / week
B1-B2		
B2 and above	Composition I (Advanced)	3 hrs / week

Instruction: Each ESL-level course is structured as follows:

1. Reading
2. Grammar
3. Listening/ Speaking
4. Writing

Each component of an ESL course will be taught by a different instructor, and a native English speaker will teach the Listening / Speaking component.

Registration: ESL I students will only take English-language courses while participating in the ESL program. In addition to their language studies, ESL II students are allowed to take **one** academic course (as long as it is not in English –valid for courses in students’ native language). ESL II students may choose from the following courses: **Albanian Business and Labor Law**. In addition to the above courses, WAP students may also enroll in other classes if the academic advisor believes the student possesses the requisite level of English (these courses *typically* carry the prerequisite of Composition I [or, at least, concurrent enrolment]) and with the permission of the course instructor and Head of Department. These courses include **Biology Today, Scientific World, Contemporary Health Problems, Human Nutrition, Human Sexuality from a Natural Science Perspective, Computer Ethics, Photography, College Algebra, College Trigonometry, Statistics, and Computer Applications.**

Advancement:

Available Options for Advancement	ESL I→ESL II	ESL II→Comp. I
Minimal Overall Passing Grade	70% or above	70% or above

Probationary Action: A student who is concurrently enrolled in any of the additional courses listed above and who **does not pass** the ESL, will not be allowed to register for any additional non-ESL courses in the subsequent semester(s) until returning to good standing by achieving a passing grade. However, a student who **passes** the ESL component but fails to pass any additional class(es) may still register for such classes in subsequent semesters. Still, the advising faculty member should take this situation into account when advising such a student to register for more credits beyond the average ESL load.