

About the ESOL Program at the School Sisters of Notre Dame Educational Center



What is ESOL?

- ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) is a program designed to strengthen the reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in English for people whose native language is not English.

About ESOL at the School Sisters of Notre Dame Educational Center:

- The ESOL program has six levels.
- The levels are from Introductory Level to Level 5, plus Beginning and Intermediate Writing via Zoom.
- There is a \$40 fee to register each year. There are no costs for classes or books.
- All classes are in person, except for the Writing Classes via Zoom.
- Most classes use the Ventures textbook series. This series focuses on practical topics such as personal information, school, health, family and friends, and the local community.

Eligibility for attending the School Sisters of Notre Dame Educational Center ESOL program:

- Women must be at least 21 years old. Classes are for women only.
- Classes are Monday through Thursday. Classes meet two or three times a week. Class schedules vary according to levels.
- A placement test is given to determine a student's level. Placement tests are normally given three times a year: in September/October, January, and June.

I want to take English classes at the Center. What should I do?

Take the placement test:

- On the homepage of this website, go to [Click for ESOL registration information.](#) There you will find the date and time for the next placement test.
- Come to the Center on the day of the test. Please be on time for the test.
- You must be 21 years old or older to take the test.
- The test will take approximately 2 hours.
- You do not need to bring anything with you to the test.
- Do not bring children with you to the test.

After you take the placement test, you can register.

- When you take the placement test, you will be given the date to come back to the Center to register. Teachers will look at your placement test and will determine which level class is best for you.
- Bring the registration fee of \$40 with you.
- Women who register will begin to attend classes the following week.

Interested in finding out more about the ESOL program at the School Sisters of Notre Dame Educational Center? Do you have specific questions or concerns?

- Send an email with your questions or concerns to Cathy Stare, the SSND Center registrar, at cathy.stare@ssndecwomens.org.

Description of ESOL Classes:

- The basic literacy skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking in English are taught at each level of instruction.
- Conversation is an important focus of instruction. Students develop fluency in English as they converse about practical topics such as shopping, health, and daily living.
- As students progress from one level of instruction to another, they strengthen their writing skills. In the Introductory level, students learn the alphabet and

write simple sentences. In each succeeding level, students write more complex sentences. By the time they are in Level 5 or a Zoom writing class, students are able to write short compositions.