

APPLIED LANGUAGE INSTITUTE (ALI)

Contact Information

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Website: Applied Language Institute (<https://shss.umkc.edu/areas-of-study/applied-language-institute/>)

Program Description

The Applied Language Institute's (ALI) mission is to offer comprehensive English-to-Speakers-of-Other-Languages (ESOL) instruction for academic, personal or professional purposes as well as language acquisition and cross-cultural classes and seminars. In addition, the Institute aims to provide students with an understanding of U.S. cultures and values, particularly within the educational environment, while acknowledging and valuing students' own cultures and languages.

Our intensive ESOL program offers up to 25 hours of instruction per week in Writing and Grammar, Reading and Vocabulary, and Listening and Speaking. Classes are small and offered at all levels of instruction from beginning through advanced. Our teaching and administrative staff is friendly, supportive, and understanding of the needs of international students in the United States.

Regular programs run from late August through December (Fall), January through May (Spring), and June and July (Summer, Level 4 only). Additionally, the ALI offers a variety of specialized short-term and group programs that include language and cultural/academic education.

English Proficiency Requirement

Proficiency in English is essential to success in academic programs at UMKC. The ALI's role at UMKC is to ensure that all non-native English speakers either already have, or have an opportunity to acquire, these necessary skills. Prior to enrollment, newly admitted ALI students and international academically-admitted students are required to take the CALIOPE English evaluation examination administered by the ALI if they have an English proficiency score below the minimum required for their area of study. Unless it differs from the area of study, for undergraduates this is any student with a TOEFL score below 61 or an IELTS score below 5.5 in all bands. For graduate students, this is any student with a TOEFL score below 79 or below 6.0 in all bands. Based on their CALIOPE results, students must enroll in and successfully complete the ALI coursework indicated as necessary. For academic students, coursework is determined by the ALI in consultation with the student's academic unit.

The only international students exempted from this admissions policy are:

- Native English speakers from English-speaking countries such as Canada, England, the Republic of Ireland, Australia and New Zealand.
- Non-native English speakers who hold degrees or diplomas from post-secondary institutions in English-speaking countries (such as the United States, Canada, England, the Republic of Ireland, Australia and New Zealand), provided that they have spent a minimum of two years of successful full-time study and English was the medium of instruction.

Grades and GPA

All ALI coursework is graded according to UMKC policies and is used in the calculation of a student's grade point average (GPA).

Academic Standing

Students participating in ALI programs are required to maintain a 2.0 cumulative University of Missouri GPA while enrolled in these programs. Students with GPAs that fall below the minimum may be placed in one of the academic standing categories detailed on the Academic Standing and Ineligibility (<https://catalog.umkc.edu/undergraduate-academic-regulations-information/academic-standing/academic-standing-ineligibility/>) webpage.

Students are encouraged to meet with the ALI Student Support Specialist for further guidance on understanding their academic standing, developing success plans, and/or completing related paperwork.

Paseo Program

The Paseo Program will serve a community of students whose English proficiency falls between the English proficiencies of two separate categories of students currently admitted to UMKC: (1) students whose English proficiency is not high enough to be admitted to undergraduate degree-seeking academic study, and thus are required to pursue ESL-only, full-time coursework in English prior to joining academic study; and (2) students whose English proficiency meets UMKC requirements for regular admission.

The Paseo Program will serve rigorously tested students who demonstrate the ability to begin undergraduate degree-seeking study with co-curricular English support coursework during their first semester to address an identified need in one, at maximum two, English skill areas. The Paseo Program supports the participating students through its co-curricular model matching ALI 160 to ENGLISH 110.

Faculty

Tammy Adams; Adjunct Instructor; BM (University of the Pacific); MA (University of Missouri-Kansas City)

Bruce Barrett; Adjunct Instructor; BM (University of Missouri-Kansas City); MA (University of Leicester)

Kathryn DeBenedetti; Lecturer; BA (Southern Oregon University); MA (Canterbury Christ Church University)

Stephen Holland-Wempe; Lecturer; BA (Rockhurst College); MIIM (School for International Training)

Joseph (Clint) Hughes; Lecturer; BA (Southwest Missouri State University); MEd (University of Missouri-Kansas City)

Aubrey (Danae) Nguyen; Adjunct Instructor; BS (Northern Arizona University); MA (Northern Arizona University)

Michael Turner; Lecturer; BS (Truman State University); MA (University of Oregon)