While each course has a specific skill focus, listening/speaking, reading/writing, and grammar are critical language skills for English language learners to be successful at school, at work, and in life. Students are expected to use level appropriate listening, speaking, grammar, reading and writing to complete activities, assignments, and exams in every ESL class. The ESL Department recommends that students complete all of the skills courses at one level before they advance to the next level.

Students taking college level courses are expected to have college level English verbal communication, reading, and writing. Students who place below the ESL 110 level are strongly encouraged to complete the ESL 40 level before they enroll in content area courses.