

Which test should you take?

How you score on the test you are about to take will determine what English course you are placed in. It is **very important** that you take the appropriate test. If English is not your primary language, please be aware that taking the test for native speakers may cause you to be placed in a course not designed for your needs. ***Students inappropriately placed in the native speaker courses run a very high risk of receiving a “D” or an “F” and having to repeat courses.***

To determine which course is appropriate for you, please answer the following questions:

I have lived in the US for six years or more

- YES
- NO

I speak mostly English with family and friends

- YES
- NO

I am most comfortable speaking English

- YES
- NO

If you answered “**NO**” to **any** of the above questions you should take the ESL placement test.

If you answered “**YES**” to **all** of the above questions, you may choose to take the test for native speakers.

If you are still not certain which test to take, please see the information on the reverse side.

Please read the following about ESL and English courses at CSM

ESL courses

- CSM's ESL faculty are trained specialists, experienced in helping non-native students gain fluency in English, including students who have gone to high school in the U.S. and lived here for many years.
- You will be placed in a transferable English 100 course when you have completed ESL 400.
- ESL courses cover grammatical issues that non-native speakers should be familiar with before attempting to take English 100.
- Students who take ESL classes have a high success rate when transferring to English 100.
- You may be able to graduate in less time by taking ESL classes.
- You may take a challenge test if you believe that ESL courses are not appropriate for you.

English courses for native speakers

- You will be placed in a non-transferable developmental writing course if you do not do well on the test.
- Students who do not pass English courses spend more time fulfilling GE requirements.
- Doing poorly in English can affect your scholarship status as well as your ability to transfer to CSU or UC schools.
- Developmental English does not help non-native English speakers gain fluency in English.