Spring 2019 ESL Skills Lab Report

Individual hours logged by students, spring 2019 - 70 students, unduplicated.

Number of visits: 437

Number of hours: 557

(Source: SARS Section Detail Report, ESL Skills Lab, 5/20/2019)

This semester the three classes that frequented the lab most were:

Gail Barta’s 962GW (section 32655WV) class (99.5 hours, 68 visits), followed by
Chris Fathman’s 964GW (section 34838-WV) class (90.5 hours, 68 visits) and in
third place, Paula Lee’s 961GW (section 32646-WV) class (66 hours, 59 visits).
Sylvia Ortega’s combined 963GW classes logged in 113 hours and 85 visits.
065GW was not offered this semester.

Due to the proximity of the former Writing Center (now part of the Success
Center), the ESL Skills Lab was able to help former ESL students who went on
to 903, 905, Reading and English 1A-C. When native speaker English tutors
could not help our former ESL students with particular sentence mechanics
and grammar issues, we were able to help them instead.

The hours we helped our former ESL students, however, are not included in
our SARS report as these former ESL students no longer checked in as ESL
students to the ESL Skills Lab, but rather as “independent study” students to
the Success Center. Therefore, the hours that we helped these former
students are unknown. In short, we helped 5 additional ESL students for an
unknown quantity of time this semester.

The ESL Skills Lab also helped students with Reading and Vocabulary class (RV)
with understanding vocabulary in their workbook exercises as well as helping
students with pre-writing exercises, revising responses to reading prompts and
also with reading comprehension summaries.
Finally, this spring semester, the ESL Skills Lab held Listening and Speaking (LS) Conversation groups three times a week for 45-60 minutes per session. Students, who were unable to take the higher level LS classes because they weren’t offered this semester, used this option to practice listening and speaking skills along with pronunciation. Furthermore, this group acquired new vocabulary and learned new expressions and idioms generated from a variety of conversation topics throughout the semester. They were also able to practice many grammar points in spoken English. We received continuous positive feedback that our students’ confidence levels for speaking English kept growing from having a place to practice with a faculty facilitator and other non-native speakers in a relaxed, helpful setting.

For the fall 2019 semester, the ESL Skills Lab will offer a conversation hour four times a week. In addition, we will offer various Grammar Workshops on the most challenging grammar issues students face every semester. Beyond the consistent personal help we provide with grammar and writing assignments, we will continue to provide supplementary grammar packets that are very popular for students who don’t learn exclusively with textbook and online activities, independently. Students will continue to have access to 8 computers with brand new headsets to listen to videos and listening exercises in their online activities. They will continue to have access to their own ESL Skills Lab printer for their writing assignments. We will have a dedicated ESL Skills Lab assistant who also acts as a peer tutor in the ESL Skills Lab, as well as help from work study students, many of whom have been former ESL students.