

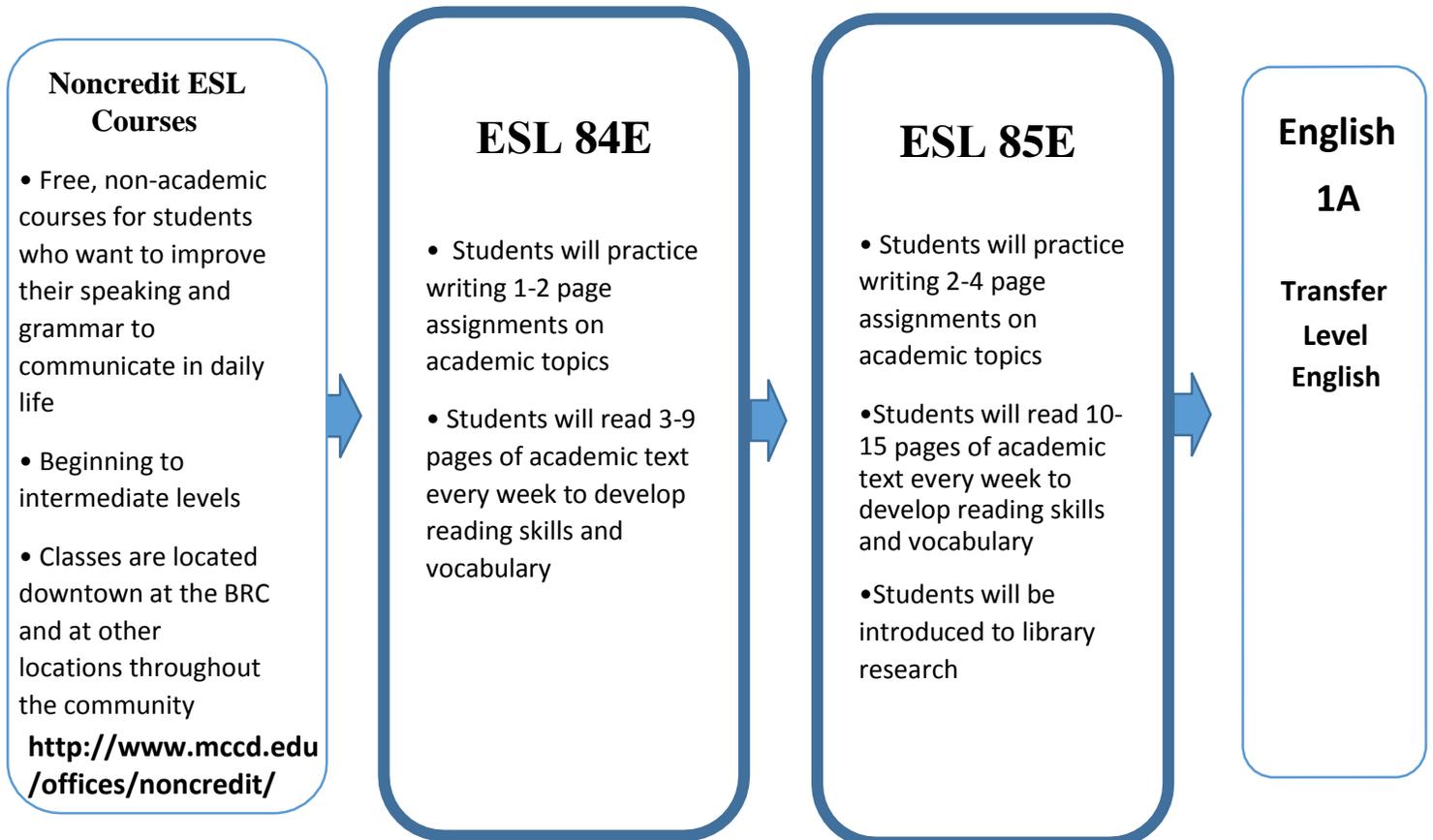
ESL Courses At Merced College

Merced College offers credit ESL courses for students whose first or primary language is not English. Native or fluent speakers of English may not take ESL courses. These are academic courses equivalent to one and two levels below transfer coursework to help students develop their reading and writing skills.

Should I take one of these ESL classes? Please think about the following questions

- Is English the first language you learned as a child?
- Did you complete most of your education in English, and were most of your school subjects taught in English?
- Do you usually speak English with your friends and/or co-workers?

If you answered "NO" to TWO or THREE of the questions, you should consider taking an ESL course 👍



WHICH CLASS SHOULD I TAKE?

Look over the information about our ESL classes above.

Then, look at page 2 for the self-assessment, which will help you choose the class you think is best. Be sure to read the information carefully.





Test yourself to see which ESL class you should choose. Read the paragraph below. Then think about how easy it was to read and understand. Be honest. You should give yourself only 1 minute to read 

Income varies by job type. Jobs that require special skills tend to pay higher salaries than those that require skills that can be obtained very quickly and easily. The income level associated with specific skills is also affected by the demand for those skills. The demand for people with a nursing degree has been very high in recent years, so hospitals have been forced to pay high salaries for nurses. In contrast, the demand for people with a history or English degree is lower because more students major in these areas.

How comfortable and confident did you feel while reading?

- A. It was mostly easy to read and I understood most of it. I did not know 0-2 words.
- B. It was a little bit difficult to read and understand because I did not know 3-5 words.
- C. It was very difficult to read, and I did not understand very much.

If you answered A, you should consider taking ESL 85E

If you answered B, you should consider taking ESL 84E

If you answered C, you should talk to a counselor about noncredit ESL classes



Are you still unsure of which class to take?

Below are samples of sentences from real students at the beginning of ESL 84E and ESL 85E. Read the examples and think about which of the paragraphs you could write in a few minutes without any help. The topic was “What are the benefits of a college education?”

ESL 85E student’s writing : The role of college is to reach my dream. If I can discover interesting subject, I can find a job about the subject I like. Also, college help me to improve my skill and have more knowledge. College can also prepare me to work at good company because many good jobs require college degree. Of course I can experience a lot of things in college that help me in my future.

ESL 84E student’s writing: I think go to college is the best choice for each person. College help us in a lot of ways. Also, I think most of the people go to college because they want to have a good job with a good pay to have better life.

If you are still unsure of which class to take, please see a counselor and they will help you decide.