Learning Skills

College of Arts and Letters



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Learning Skills Center and the Educational Opportunity Program offer courses, workshops, and individual assistance to students at all university levels. Program areas include composition, reading, study skills, mathematics, English for multilingual speakers, and special services for students with learning disabilities. In addition, internship courses are offered for students who want to tutor at the college level.

Courses numbered Learning Skills (LS) 1 through 49 are precollege level courses. These courses carry workload credit and may be counted only toward establishing full-time enrollment status. Precollege level course units are not applicable to the bachelor's degree. Courses numbered LS 50 through LS 199 carry regular bachelor's degree credits.

LS 39A, LS 39B, and LS 79 are specifically for Educational Opportunity Program students and are taught by Educational Opportunity Program faculty.

Faculty

Roberta J. Ching, Sue McKee, Stan Barrick

Contact Information

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Course Repeat Policy

A student may only repeat one time the following Learning Skills Center courses: LS 7A, LS 7B, LS 10A, LS 15, LS 86, LS 87. (These courses may be taken a total of two times; a student enrolling in one of these a third time may be disenrolled.) See the Sacramento State University Repeat Policy.

Requirements • Placement • Mathematics and English Courses

Incoming freshmen are required to take the English Placement Test (EPT) and/or Entry Level Mathematics Examination (ELM).

Mathematics

If you do not have credit for GE Math and are not exempt from the Entry Level Math (ELM) test, you must take the ELM test for mathematics course placement before enrolling in the University. (See ELM exemptions in the University Catalog.) The ELM exam places students into preparatory and GE level math courses. If you place into a preparatory class (pre-GE Area B4), you must enroll in the course in your first semester at Sacramento State and complete the preparatory course sequence within one year.

ELM Scores	Course Placement	
34 or below	LS 7A and LS 7B (4 units each)	
36 to 42	LS 10A (4 units)	
44 to 48	LS 10A (4 units) or LS 10I (3 units) for	
	students planning to take MATH 1 for GE area B4	
	MATH 9 (3 units) and LS 10X* (1 unit)	
	for students planning to take a GE area B4 course other than MATH 1	
50 and above	GE Level for Area B4 (ELM equivalency	
	requirement met)	

*For students planning to take a GE Area B4 math course other than MATH 1, courses in this category are MATH 17, MATH 24, MATH 26A, MATH 26B, MATH 29, MATH 30, MATH 31, MATH 35, STAT 1, STAT 50. (Successful completion of a Diagnostic Exam is a prerequisite.) Contact the Mathematics Department, Brighton Hall 141, (916) 278-6534, for GE math information.

Notes:

- You may retake the ELM Test.
- You are not required to retake the ELM Test after completion of the course sequence.

English

If you do not have credit for GE English and are not exempt from the English Placement Test, you must take the EPT for English course placement before enrolling in the University. See EPT exemptions in the University Catalog. The EPT places students into their preparatory and GE English courses. If you are multilingual, your EPT will be evaluated to see if you could benefit from a writing course specially designed to meet your needs. If you place into a preparatory class, you must enroll in the course in your first semester at Sacramento State and complete the preparatory course sequence within one year.

EPT Scores	Course Placement	Multilingual Course
120-141	LS 15 and ENGL 1	LS 86 and LS 87
142-145	ENGL 1	LS 87
146-147	ENGL 1A and	ENGL 2 and
	ENGL 1X	ENGL 2X
148 and above*	ENGL 1A	ENGL 2

*If EPT score is 149-150, students must pass ENGL 1A or ENGL 2 (for multilingual students with at least a "C-" within the first year of enrollment.

The EDT places upper division multilingual students into the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) sequence, LS 86 and ENGL 109M

Lower Division Courses

Courses for Workload Credit Only

Courses numbered LS 1 through LS 49 are basic skills courses. These courses carry workload credit and may be counted only toward establishing full-time enrollment status. Basic skills course units are not applicable to the bachelor's degree. Courses numbered LS 50 through LS 199 carry regular bachelor's degree credits.

- **LS 5. Reading and Vocabulary Development.** Individual and small-group instruction to improve basic reading and study skills. Includes reading comprehension, reading rate improvement, text processing techniques and vocabulary expansion. **Note:** May be repeated. **Graded:** Remedial Grade Basis. **Units:** 2.0.
- **LS 6.** Language Development Multilingual Students. Tutorials for students whose first language is not English. Topics depend on student needs. **Note:** May be repeated. **Graded:** Remedial Grade Basis. **Units:** 1.0.
- **LS 6A. Oral Skills for Multilingual Students.** Small-group instruction in English oral skills for students whose first language is not English. **Note:** May be repeated. **Graded:** Remedial Grade Basis. **Units:** 2.0.
- **LS 6B. Writing Skills for Multilingual Students.** Small-group instruction in writing skills, including Writing Proficiency Exam preparation for students whose first language is not English. **Note:** May be repeated. **Graded:** Remedial Grade Basis. **Units:** 1.0.
- **LS 7A. Making Sense of Algebra.** Review of fundamental mathematics concepts, measurement geometry, and beginning algebra. **Prerequisite:** Score of 34 or below on the ELM Test. **Graded:** Remedial Grade Basis. **Units:** 4.0.
- LS 7B. Making Sense of Algebra. Review of beginning algebra, algebra topics, and measurement geometry. Prerequisite: LS 7A. Graded: Remedial Grade Basis. Units: 4.0.
- **LS 8A.** Individualized Algebra. First in a three course sequence to prepare students for Math 1. Delivered at a slower pace than other preparatory math courses. Upon completion of the three course sequence, students must enroll in MATH 1. **Prerequisite:** Instructor permission and pre-algebra competency. **Graded:** Remedial Grade Basis. **Units:** 2.0.

- **LS 8B. Individualized Algebra.** Second in a three course sequence to prepare students for Math 1. A continuation of topics in LS 8A. Delivered at a slower pace than other preparatory math courses. Upon completion of the three course sequence, students must enroll in MATH 1. **Prerequisite:** Instructor permission and pre-algebra competency. **Graded:** Remedial Grade Basis. **Units:** 2.0.
- **LS 8C. Individualized Algebra.** Last in a three course sequence designed to prepare students for Math 1. A continuation of topics addressed in LS 8B. Delivered at a slower pace than other preparatory math courses. Upon completion of the three course sequence, students must enroll in MATH 1. **Prerequisite:** Instructor permission and pre-algebra competency. **Graded:** Remedial Grade Basis. **Units:** 2.0.
- **LS 9. Computer Tutorial.** Provides students with basic IBM and Macintosh computer literacy, keyboard familiarity and fundamentals of word processing, as well as an introduction to appropriate specialized hardware and software. Small group or individualized instruction based on individual need. Enables students to access computers independently. **Prerequisite:** Instructor permission. **Graded:** Remedial Grade Basis. **Units:** 1.0.
- **LS 10A.** Elementary Algebra with Geometry. Review of fundamental mathematical concepts, basic measurement geometry and beginning algebra. Instruction provided through lecture or structured tutorial format. **Note:** May utilize computers. **Prerequisite:** Score of 36-42 on the ELM Test. **Graded:** Remedial Grade Basis. **Units:** 4.0.
- **LS 10I. ELM Self-Paced Course.** Review of elementary algebra and measurement geometry through a program of independent study. **Prerequisite:** Score of 44-48 on the ELM. **Graded:** Remedial Grade Basis. **Units:** 3.0.
- **LS 10X. Geometry Adjunct to Math 9.** Review of measurement geometry and tutorial support for students concurrently enrolled in Math 9. **Prerequisite:** Score of 44-48 on the ELM. **Corequisite:** MATH 9. **Graded:** Remedial Grade Basis. **Units:** 1.0.
- **LS 15. College Language Skills.** Instruction in reading and writing skills. Focuses on the interrelationship of reading and writing, with emphasis on development, organization, and clarity of communication. Lecture three hours; lab two hours. **Note:** Utilizes computers. **Prerequisite:** Score of 120-141 on the English Placement Test. **Graded:** Remedial Grade Basis. **Units:** 4.0.
- **LS 39A. Special Problems for EOP Students.** Individually directed projects or tutorial instruction in a skill development area or in any subject matter to develop a specific academic skill (i.e., essay writing). **Prerequisite:** Instructor permission. **Graded:** Remedial Grade Basis. **Units:** 1.0-3.0.
- **LS 39B.** Group Tutorial in Special Problems for EOP Students. Group instruction in basic skills development and general education content areas. Various topics offered and groups created based upon student interest and as required by the EOP Learning Communities Program. **Prerequisite:** Instructor permission. **Graded:** Remedial Grade Basis. **Units:** 1.0-3.0.

Courses Applicable to the Bachelor's Degree

LS 50. Academic Strategies for College Study. Study of the use of campus resources, effective study techniques, and successful test-taking strategies to promote academic success. Topics include time management, learning styles, text processing and critical reading, listening and note-taking, library research, taking exams, and improving memory. **Corequisite:** Enrollment in LS 15 **Graded:** Credit / No Credit. **Units:** 3.0.

- LS 50M. Academic Strategies for College Study for Multilingual Students. Study of the use of campus resources, effective study techniques, and successful test-taking strategies to promote academic success for multilingual students. Topics include time management, learning styles, text processing and critical reading, listening and note taking, library research, taking exams, and improving memory. Corequisite: Enrollment in LS 86. Graded: Credit / No Credit. Units: 3.0.
- **LS 51. Orientation to College Study.** Study of the use of campus resources, effective study techniques, and successful test-taking strategies. Topics include time management, note taking, reading and vocabulary development, and exam preparation. **Corequisite:** Enrollment in LS 15. **Graded:** Credit / No Credit. **Units:** 1.0.
- LS 51M. Orientation to College Study for Multilingual Students. Study of the use of campus resources, effective study techniques, and successful test-taking strategies for multilingual students. Topics include time management, note taking, reading and vocabulary development, and exam preparation. Corequisite: Enrollment in LS 86. Graded: Credit / No Credit. Units: 1.0.
- **LS 55.** Academic Strategies Adjuncts. Study skills adjuncts for selected General Education courses. Effective learning strategies for the academic course in which the students is concurrently enrolled. **Graded:** Credit / No Credit. **Units:** 1.0.
 - LS 55A. Academic Strategies-History.
 - LS 55B. Academic Strategies-Biology.
 - LS 55C. Academic Strategies-Chemistry.
 - LS 55D. Academic Strategies Adjunct: Economics.
 - LS 55E. Academic Strategies Philosophy.
 - LS 55F. Academic Strategies-Chemistry 4.
 - LS 55G. Academic Strategies-Physics.
 - LS 55H. Academic Strategies-Government.
 - LS 55I. Academic Strategies-English.
- **LS 60. Reading for Speed and Efficiency.** Strategies and techniques to promote greater reading efficiency and flexibility and increase reading speed. Drills to develop rate and comprehension as well as supplementary practice in the LSC reading lab. **Note:** Utilizes computers. **Graded:** Credit / No Credit. **Units:** 1.0.
- **LS 60M.** Reading for Speed and Efficiency Multilingual Students. Strategies and techniques to promote greater reading efficiency and flexibility as well as to increase reading speed for college-level multilingual readers. Classroom instruction includes drills to develop rate and comprehension as well as supplementary practice in the LSC reading lab. **Note:** Utilizes computers. **Graded:** Credit / No Credit. **Units:** 1.0.
- **LS 64.** Preparation for Professional Examinations. Test taking strategies, critical thinking skills, and specific skills in reading comprehension, writing, and math needed for professional tests. Preparation for the following tests: GRE Verbal, GRE Math, CBEST Reading, CBEST Writing, CBEST Math, MCAT. **Note:** May be repeated for up to 3 units of credit provided course topic is not repeated. **Graded:** Credit / No Credit. **Units:** 1.0.
- **LS 64G. Prep CSET I.** Test taking strategies, critical thinking skills, and specific skills in reading comprehension, writing, and math needed for professional tests. Preparation for the following tests: GRE Verbal, GRE Math, CBEST Reading, CBEST Writing, CBEST Math, MCAT, CSET Multiple Subjects I, II, and III. **Graded:** Credit / No Credit. **Units:** 3.0.
- **LS 64H. Prep CSET II.** Test taking strategies, critical thinking skills, and specific skills in reading comprehension, writing, and math needed for professional tests. Preparation for the following tests: GRE Verbal, GRE Math, CBEST Reading, CBEST Writing, CBEST Math, MCAT, CSET Multiple Subjects I, II, and III. **Graded:** Credit / No Credit. **Units:** 3.0.

- **LS 64I. Prep CSET III.** Test taking strategies, critical thinking skills, and specific skills in reading comprehension, writing, and math needed for professional tests. Preparation for the following tests: GRE Verbal, GRE Math, CBEST Reading, CBEST Writing, CBEST Math, MCAT, CSET Multiple Subjects I, II, and III. **Graded:** Credit / No Credit. **Units:** 3.0.
- **LS 79. Advanced Independent Study for EOP Students.** Advanced work to enhance the critical thinking, evaluative, and interpretive skills of students in their college course writing. Special attention to literary development and the production of scholarly work. **Prerequisite:** Instructor permission. **Graded:** Credit / No Credit. **Units:** 1.0-3.0.
- **LS 85. Grammar for Multilingual Writers.** Covers the major systems of English grammar in the context of reading passages and the students' own writing. Practice in editing authentic writing. **Prerequisite:** Placement of LS 86 or LS 87 on the English Diagnostic Test. **Corequisite:** LS 86, LS 87, or a course that requires considerable writing. **Graded:** Credit / No Credit. **Units:** 2.0.
- **LS 86.** College Language Skills for Multilingual Students. Focuses on the interrelationships of reading and writing, with emphasis on development, organization, grammar, and clarity of communication. Lecture three hours; lab two hours. **Note:** Utilizes computers. **Prerequisite:** Score of 120-141 on the English Placement Test or score of 2 or 3 on the English Diagnostic Test. **Graded:** Credit / No Credit. **Units:** 4.0.
- **LS 87. Basic Writing Skills for Multilingual Students.** Emphasizes writing and language development. Instruction in reading and essay writing, from idea generation to revision and editing. **Prerequisite:** Score of 142-145 on English Placement Test or score of 4 on English Diagnostic Test, or credit in LS 86. **Graded:** Credit / No Credit. **Units:** 3.0.

Upper Division Courses

- **LS 195A.** Learning Skills Tutoring Internship. Practical application of learning through the tutoring of students. **Prerequisite:** Instructor permission. **Graded:** Credit / No Credit. **Units:** 3.0.
- **LS 196.** Experimental Offerings in Learning Skills. Topics related to the improvement of tutoring skills. Not offered every semester. **Units:** 1.0-3.0.
- **LS 199. Special Problems.** Individual projects or directed study. **Note:** Requires approval of faculty member and Department Chair. **Graded:** Credit / No Credit. **Units:** 1.0-3.0.