

## English Language/LAUNCH Placement Administered by the Office of Internationalization

### What is the LAUNCH Curriculum?

DU's LAUNCH Curriculum is designed to help international students and students whose first language is not English be more successful in their academic programs. The curriculum focuses on improving English language proficiency, learning to participate in an American institution of higher education, and exploring the nuances of U.S. culture.

### Why is LAUNCH required?

As part of the Common Curriculum at DU, most undergraduate students must complete a foreign language requirement. Based on a proficiency assessment test, students must complete 4, 8, or 12 language credits in order to fulfill this part of the Common Curriculum.

For international students who identify that English is not their first language, this requirement is fulfilled by taking 4, 8, or 12 credits in DU's LAUNCH curriculum. Students' scores on TOEFL, IELTS, or the DU English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) determine students' placement into the courses of the LAUNCH curriculum. Students receive credit toward their degree and fulfill the foreign language requirement by taking these English courses.

### Who has to take courses in the LAUNCH curriculum?

All international students who are non-native speakers of English are required to take at least one course in the LAUNCH Curriculum.

Exception: Transfer students admitted from another college or university where English is the universal language of instruction may be waived from taking LAUNCH courses if they have completed at least 30 transferable semester credits OR have taken both English Composition I and English Composition II and earned a C- grade or higher.

### How many LAUNCH courses are required?

## What are the LAUNCH courses about?

**ENGG 1100: Exploring US Culture** - Designed as a foundational course for international students, this course examines the dynamic nature of US culture. While acquiring a language is the first step for successful integration into a non-native country, it is only the beginning. Once the language is acquired, one must learn the dynamic and pluralistic nuances every culture has. Students are introduced to the pluralistic nature of contemporary American values and reflect on how these values interact. Students are also given the opportunity to share their cultural identity and role in the great multicultural community at DU.

**ENGG 1080: Speaking Strategically** - Designed as a foundational course for international students, this course prepares students to effectively communicate orally for a variety of academic purposes. Through the use of content selected by the instructor, students learn to synthesize information from a variety of different sources, deliver a critical and comprehensive prepared presentation, initiate successful oral discussion strategies during class discussions, and critically contribute to a variety of academic conversations. Students are also expected to demonstrate the ability to critically listen and respond to sustained lectures or speeches.

**ENGG 1090: Writing that Matters** - Designed as a foundational course for international students, this course prepares students to effectively communicate through writing for a variety of academic purposes. Through the use of content selected by the instructor, students learn to synthesize texts, critically respond to a variety of source materials, and write in a way that contributes to the greater academic discussion, and write texts of various genres and styles according to author purpose, audience, and way of reasoning or logic.

## How is placement into LAUNCH courses determined?

All international students who are non-native speakers of English are required to take ENGG 1100: Exploring US Culture.

For students who submit TOEFL or IELTS scores for admission, placement into ENGG 1080: Speaking Strategically and ENGG 1090: Writing that Matters will be based on the sub-scores in the relevant skill areas:

Skill Area	TOEFL Sub-score	IELTS Sub-score	Course Requirement
Writing	23 or below	6.5 or below	ENGG 1090: Writing that Matters
Reading	23 or below	6.5 or below	ENGG 1090: Writing that Matters
Speaking	24 or below	6.5 or below	ENGG 1080: Speaking Strategically
Listening	21 or below	6.5 or below	ENGG 1080: Speaking Strategically

Students who submit a qualifying Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) with a grade of C or above will not be required to take ENGG 1080 or ENGG 1090.

Students who do not submit TOEFL, IELTS, or CAE scores for admission will be required to take DU's English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) placement into LAUNCH courses. Students who do not submit test scores or complete the ELPA will be automatically placed into all three LAUNCH courses.

## What is the ELPA, and how is it administered?

All students are asked to provide writing and speaking samples by responding to specific prompts. The writing and speaking samples are completed online prior to arrival on campus. Students who are required to take the ELPA will be emailed instructions for completing the assessment online.

Each student's writing and speaking samples are reviewed by two ENGG instructors to assess the student's ability to communicate in a manner that can be easily understood by a native speaker of English.

For Reading/Writing, the instructors evaluate the student's:

- ability to organize their thoughts
- ability to develop and support their main ideas
- ability to reference a source text appropriately – paraphrasing, quoting, etc.
- ability to use word forms, vocabulary, and complex sentence structures at a level of sophistication appropriate for university study
- ability to use correct sentence structure, word order, grammar, punctuation, sentence variety, and transitions.

For Speaking/Listening, the instructors evaluate the student's:

- speaking fluency
- pronunciation and comprehensibility
- ability to interact spontaneously with native speakers of English
- ability to develop ideas and contribute to conversations on academic topics
- ability to listen effectively and respond appropriately to live or recorded information