

University Prep

Each fall and spring semester, IEI offers a University Prep (UP) course for students who are interested in going on to the University of Memphis. Students wishing to enroll in the UP course must have passed Level 6 of the regular IEI program with an A or B and have the recommendation of their teachers. In the fall of 2005 IEI secured an agreement with undergraduate admissions that would allow our University Prep (UP) students to use their work in the UP class as a replacement for the TOEFL under certain circumstances. The students would have to earn an A or B in the course and they would have to have the recommendation of the UP instructors to be considered for this.

The University Prep Course includes:

- 16 weeks, 23 hours per week
- A sheltered university class (In the spring semester it was World Civilization 1. The students participate fully in all of the lectures, assignments and tests. They do not receive university credit. The supporting English classes revolve around the content of the university class.)
- A supporting reading/writing class that includes research writing
- A supporting listening/speaking class that includes making presentations, leading small group discussions, and improving pronunciation skills
- A grammar workshop
- Preparation for the university
 - o Tech skills (Word, PowerPoint, internet, email, Web CT, UM Drive, etc.)
 - o Library skills (on-line databases and journals, Tomcat, library collection formats, etc.)
 - o Culture of American university classrooms
 - o Other university supports

The TOEFL has undergone a significant change in what it actually assesses. In the new TOEFL iBT, all four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) are integrated, and speaking is a major component for the first time. The test shows more accurately

what a student can do with the English language in an academic setting. These skills are exactly what our students focus on throughout their 16 weeks in the University Prep level, making their class results an even better indication of their abilities than the TOEFL as a one-time test would represent.

In the fall of 2006 this information was presented to the Graduate School departments, and it was well-received. Because each department has to make its own determinations regarding TOEFL requirements at the graduate level, it has been decided that we would work on a case-by-case basis directly with the departments on behalf of our UP students who wish to apply for graduate-level study.

We have also secured an agreement with Tennessee Tech University to allow the same type of waiver for students applying for undergraduate studies at that institution.