



University of Colorado
Denver

2026

**ESL ACADEMY/
LYNXDIRECT**



English Language Learning and Preparation at CU Denver

By learning and socializing in an intensive academic English environment, students quickly acquire the language skills they need for university and everyday life in the US. Completion of level 5 at the English as a Second Language (ESL) Academy satisfies the English language requirements for most undergraduate and graduate studies for the University of Colorado Denver.

CLASSES

Intensive English classes at the ESL Academy are designed for university-bound students. Grammar, reading, writing, listening, and speaking classes ensure a student's success at the university. Other classes such as Rhetoric and Logic and Advanced Vocabulary support a student's successful transition into academic culture.

FIVE 8-WEEK TERMS EACH YEAR

Summer
June

Fall I
August

Fall II
October

Spring I
January

Spring II
March

Please visit clas.ucdenver.edu/esl for specific start dates.

MY SCORE					
TOEFL iBT	29-42	43-53	54-63	64-70	70-74
IELTS	4	4.5	5	5.5	6
Estimated Entrance ESL Level	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
ESL Terms Required Before CU Denver Enrollment Eligibility	5 Terms	4 Terms	3 Terms	2 Terms	1 Term

QUICK AND EASY ONLINE APPLICATION

- ▶ To complete the short application or find out more information about the ESL Academy, visit clas.ucdenver.edu/esl
- ▶ \$120 Application Processing and Placement Testing Fee (waived with conditional admission to a CU Denver degree program)
- ▶ Students are invited to an online interview with an ESL Academy staff member to assess English language ability and answer any questions applicants might have.

ESTIMATED COSTS FOR THE ESL ACADEMY

Figures based on the 2025-26 academic year.

	ESL Academy (One 8-Week Term)	ESL Academy (One Year)
Tuition & Fees*	\$4,344	\$21,719
Health Insurance	\$400	\$2,000
Books	\$250	\$1,250
Other Living Expenses	\$4,920	\$24,601
Total (1-20 Amount)	\$9,914	\$49,570

**Tuition and fees amounts are subject to change. Your costs may vary depending on the number of ESL terms attended and your individual living arrangements. See the most current information by visiting clas.ucdenver.edu/esl*

ESL ACADEMY GRADUATES SCHOLARSHIP

Students who successfully complete level 5 at CU Denver’s ESL Academy and continue with CU Denver for their undergraduate degree studies are guaranteed a scholarship of \$1,000 per year, for each level completed at the ESL Academy. Up to the full cost of ESL tuition & fees will be earned back through the scholarship, over the course of the degree program. You will see the return of investment on ESL study through better preparation and better grades, AND you can recoup the financial cost too!

ESL Levels Completed	Level Entered ESL Academy	ESL Academy Annual Award Amount	Total Scholarship During Undergraduate Degree
One Level	Level 5	\$1,000	\$4,000
Two Levels	Level 4	\$2,000	\$8,000
Three Levels	Level 3	\$3,000	\$12,000
Four Levels	Level 2	\$4,000	\$16,000
Five Levels	Level 1	\$5,000	\$20,000
LynxDirect	Level 5 + Pathway	\$2,000	

RESIDENT SCHOLARSHIP

US Residents, Green Card holders, Refugees, and Asylees are eligible for a resident scholarship of up to half of the cost of tuition. University fees still apply. Potential recipients need to complete a brief questionnaire. If selected for the scholarship, the student will receive a credit to their account for one half of the amount of the tuition. Students are eligible for the scholarship for multiple terms of enrollment.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND CAMPUS LIFE

ESL Academy students are a part of the CU Denver community. With classes on campus and access to the same resources as other students, ESL Academy students are integrated into campus life and take advantage of the full student experience. The downtown campus is close to a wide variety of fun activities that help students understand American life and culture.



LynxDirect Pathway Program

LynxDirect is an accelerated pathway into your degree program that builds your English language skills while you save time and money.

LynxDirect is offered in the fall (August) and spring (January) semesters. The program starts with guaranteed admission to the highest level in CU Denver’s ESL Academy. After completing ESL courses, you will take two undergraduate credit-bearing courses that fulfill core graduation requirements for your major.

First Semester at CU Denver	Second Semester
Academic Home: CU Denver ESL Academy	Academic Home: Your Major
I-20: Pathway I-20	I-20: Degree I-20
ESL Academy Level 5 ♦ Credit-Bearing Courses ♦	Full-time bachelor’s degree coursework

From day one, you’ll be a part of the CU Denver community, where you’ll learn from highly qualified faculty in a supportive, welcoming academic environment. Classes provide personalized attention in small class sizes. International Student Scholarships are available for the LynxDirect pathway program.

LYNXDIRECT ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ **IELTS:** Overall 6.0
- ▶ **TOEFL iBT:** Comprehensive 70

Simply visit Internationaladmissions.ucdenver.edu and complete the online application for your major of choice. Then, send your transcripts to International Admissions. International Admissions will consider you for admission to LynxDirect if you have a TOEFL or IELTS score that meets the requirements. International Admissions will review your academic background and make an admission decision. Qualified students will be admitted to LynxDirect.

ESTIMATED COSTS FOR 1 TERM – LYNXDIRECT

Figures based on the 2025-26 academic year.

Tuition & Fees*	\$12,808
Living Expenses	\$9,840
Books & Insurance	\$1,300
Total (I-20 Amount)	\$23,948

**Tuition and fees amounts are subject to change. Costs apply to the LynxDirect program (one semester). Upon completion, you will need to provide updated financial information based on the cost of your degree program. See the most current information by visiting clas.ucdenver.edu/esl*

LEARN MORE ABOUT LYNXDIRECT:

Core Composition I; English 1020. (3 credits) Expand your ability to write for different purposes and audiences. Learn how to respond to a variety of rhetorical situations. Deepen your critical thinking skills and expression of ideas.

Fundamentals Of Communication; Communication 1011. (3 credits) Explore different models of communication. Learn more about interpersonal and nonverbal communication. Strengthen your analysis and decision-making abilities.

Pathway Support Class. (Non-credit) Continue to strengthen your English language proficiency skills. Improve your overall preparedness for the academic rigors of an American university.



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CONTACT & SOCIAL MEDIA

clas.ucdenver.edu/esl
+1 ((303) 315-2383
esl@ucdenver.edu
facebook.com/cudenver.eslacademy
instagram.com/cudenver_esl

