American Language and Culture Institute

The American Language and Culture Institute (http://www.apu.edu/international/alci) (ALCI) offers intensive English as a Second Language (ESL) courses and cultural programs to international students, enabling them to acquire the necessary academic skills to function and compete within the American university environment. Students who have not obtained the required English proficiency scores may complete ALCI’s program to enter their undergraduate or graduate program at APU. To serve the whole person, ALCI also offers peer mentoring and leadership development through the American International Mentoring program (AIM) (http://www.apu.edu/international/scholars/programs/aim).

To enter ALCI, students must meet one of the following testing requirements: iBT score of 50; IELTS score of 5.0; or Level 3 placement on the ALCI placement exam. Please note that once a student is accepted to ALCI, that student’s placement is determined by the ALCI placement exam taken at the beginning of the semester.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for ALCI Level 4

Students who successfully complete the requirements of Level 4 of the American Language and Culture Institute shall be able to:

PLO 1: Write undergraduate-level critiques and research papers on topics related to their majors. (Note: PLOs 1-5 shall be accomplished at Language Proficiency Level Advanced Mid as outlined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (https://www.actfl.org), which is approximate to B2 in the Common European Framework (https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/home).)

PLO 2: Orally present/defend capstone theses and facilitate/participate in undergraduate–level, seminar-style discussions and debates on topics related to their majors.

PLO 3: Offer immediate oral and written responses to undergraduate–level lectures, discussions, in-class readings, and audiovisual media presentations.

PLO 4: Apply intercultural communication skills and strategies to acclimate to American culture and interact with Azusa’s diverse community.

PLO 5: Articulate thoughtful responses to foundational biblical and apologetic content.

Program Learning Outcomes for ALCI Level 5

Students who successfully complete the requirements of Level 5 of the American Language and Culture Institute shall be able to:

PLO 1: Write graduate-level critiques and research papers on topics related to their majors. (Note: PLOs 1-6 shall be accomplished at Language Proficiency Level Advanced High as outlined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (https://www.actfl.org), which is approximate to C1 in the Common European Framework (https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/home).)

PLO 2: Orally present/defend capstone theses and facilitate/participate in graduate–level, seminar–style discussions and debates on topics related to their programs of study.

PLO 3: Offer immediate oral and written responses to graduate-level lectures, discussions, in–class readings, and audiovisual media presentations.

PLO 4: Apply intercultural communication skills and strategies to acclimate to American culture and interact with Azusa’s diverse community.

PLO 5: Explain verbally and in writing their current philosophy of leadership and its application to their own personal and professional leadership development.

PLO 6: Articulate their worldview with those from other belief systems in a culturally appropriate manner in a university context.

ALCI’s certificate program contains three levels of study taught in two 15-week semesters and one 10-week summer semester, with approximately 18 hours of class time weekly per level as listed below. Students who have been conditionally admitted to the undergraduate program must complete Level 4 to meet the English proficiency requirement, whereas students conditionally admitted to a graduate program must complete Level 5 to meet the English proficiency requirement. To complete Levels 3-4, students must pass all courses with an 80 percent (B-) or higher. To complete Level 5, students must pass all courses with an 85 percent (B) or higher.

American Language and Culture Institute Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALCI 31</td>
<td>Academic Composition and Reading Skills III</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In addition to the courses required for each level, ALCI students are required to participate in the AIM program (http://www.apu.edu/international/scholars/programs/aim) during the first semester of their studies. Also, chapel attendance is mandatory for all ALCI and undergraduate students on APU’s campus. Finally, students will meet with an academic advisor to discuss their study plans at APU.

**ALCI 27, Introduction to Christian Culture & Values - Basic, 2 Units**
This course is designed for international students who have no knowledge of Christianity, or who are young Christians. This course introduces basic terminology, concepts and themes of the Bible and Christian life that are necessary for students to understand and apply in their undergraduate studies and community life at APU.

**Prerequisite:** Must be a student in the ALCI Program.

**ALCI 31, Academic Composition and Reading Skills 3, 8 Units**
This integrated skills class prepares intermediate ESL students to read and write more effectively at the university level in America. Students read articles and books to enhance their comprehension and vocabulary. Writing and grammar lessons focus on paragraph, essay, summary, and response writing to build their proficiency.

**Prerequisite:** Must be a student in the ALCI Program.

**ALCI 32, Academic Skills for Intermediate Learners, 1 Unit**
This course equips intermediate ESL students with the academic skills and strategies necessary to succeed in a university setting. Students practice American classroom protocol, identify their personal learning styles, learn effective study techniques, and navigate on-campus resources to successfully accomplish their academic goals.

**Prerequisite:** Must be a student in the ALCI Program.

**ALCI 35, Intermediate Oral Communication, 4 Units**
This interactive course equips intermediate ESL students with the listening and speaking skills necessary to function successfully at the undergraduate level. Students focus on strategies in listening comprehension, group seminar participation, and academic presentations.

**Prerequisite:** Must be a student in the ALCI Program.

**ALCI 37, Introduction to Christian Culture & Values - Intermediate, 2 Units**
For international students who have no background in Christianity, this course provides a fundamental knowledge base in a context appropriate for intermediate-level English language learners. For international students with a Christian background, this course creates dialogue on their theology, fosters reflection on how to apply a Biblically founded worldview in their lives, and encourages their ability to dialogue with those of other beliefs.
ALCI 41, Academic Composition and Reading Skills 4, 4 Units
This integrated ESL reading and writing course prepares international students for coursework at the undergraduate level. Students read, summarize, and evaluate academic articles in their field to enhance their reading comprehension, academic vocabulary, and critical thinking, while developing skills in essay writing, including narrative, problem-solution, compare-contrast, and cause-effect essays.
Prerequisite: Must be a student in the ALCI Program.

ALCI 43, Intermediate Pronunciation, 4 Units
This intermediate ESL course prepares students to speak accurately when producing the language, focusing on intonation, sounds, and rhythm of American English. Students listen and practice formation of correct vowel and consonant sounds, and fluency, including stress, sentence intonation, focus words, and linking skills.
Prerequisite: Must be a student in the ALCI Program.

ALCI 44, Intercultural Communication, 2 Units
This course equips ESL students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to communicate across lines of human difference and to understand the role of culture in communication. Students identify obstacles to effective communication and develop strategies to intercultural competence. One semester required at level 4, 5, or 6.
Prerequisite: Prerequisite: One semester required of Level 4, 5, or 6. Must be a student in the ALCI Program.

ALCI 45, Grammar/Seminar Speaking 4, 4 Units
This advanced ESL class trains students to apply advanced grammar structures in undergraduate writing/speaking. In addition to writing undergraduate-level critiques, students use grammar in meaningful, realistic conversations that replicate seminar-style university courses.
Prerequisite: Must be a student in the ALCI Program.

ALCI 46, Presentation Skills, 3 Units
This course equips ESL students with the public speaking skills, knowledge, and confidence necessary to function in the university classroom. Using various techniques and visual aids from the latest technology, students present a research topic from a concurrent course.
Prerequisite: Must be a student in the ALCI Program.

ALCI 47, Biblical Foundations for ESL Learners, 2 Units
This course teaches biblical terms and concepts at a High Intermediate ESL level, requiring students to: 1) read an entire book of the Bible; 2) to participate in seminar discussions; and 3) write weekly summary/response papers at an undergraduate writing level. For students with no background in Christianity, this course provides prerequisite theological vocabulary and concepts necessary to succeed in required undergraduate theology courses at APU. For students with a background in Christianity, this course promotes theological dialogue with those of other beliefs.
Prerequisite: Must be a student in the ALCI Program.

ALCI 48, Capstone Project, 4 Units
In order to complete the requirements of ALCI Level 4, students must demonstrate the ability to excel in American universities through strong academic research, writing, and critical thinking as assessed in the final Capstone Project. This course includes an argumentative paper, a presentation, and an oral defense before a committee.
Prerequisite: Must be a student in the ALCI Program.

ALCI 52, Observation Report, 3 Units
Using an experiential learning approach, this course requires ESL students to observe a university class within their field of study on a weekly basis to develop knowledge, skills and awareness of American university classroom dynamics. Students then corporately debrief the experience at ALCI to gain strategies for future classroom success.
Prerequisite: Must be a student in the ALCI Program.

ALCI 53, Advanced Pronunciation, 2 Units
This advanced course focuses on accurate production of intonation, sounds, and rhythm of American English at the graduate level. Course content addresses individual pronunciation errors that hinder comprehensibility. This course is taken in Level 5 or as required by the director of ALCI.
Prerequisite: Prerequisite: ALCI 43. Must be a student in the ALCI Program.

ALCI 55, Grammar/Seminar Speaking 5, 4 Units
This advanced ESL class trains students to apply advanced grammar structures in graduate writing/speaking. In addition to writing graduate-level critiques, students use grammar in meaningful, realistic conversations that replicate seminar-style graduate courses.
Prerequisite: Prerequisite: ALCI 45 Grammar/Seminar Speaking - Level 4. Must be a student in the ALCI Program.

ALCI 56, Advanced Presentation and Seminar Skills, 3 Units
This course equips international ESL students with advanced presentation skills needed to succeed in the university. Critical thinking, organization, and rhetorical cues are addressed.
Prerequisite: Prerequisites: This course is offered to Level S-6 students. As such, students must successfully meet Level4 exit criteria prior to the course. Must be a student in the ALCI Program.
ALCI 58, Research Project, 5 Units
This course trains advanced ESL students to conduct graduate-level research in American libraries and online databases, administer interviews and surveys with native English speakers, and produce various forms of academic writing, including paraphrasing, summarizing, evaluating, and APA-style research papers.
Prerequisite: Must be a student in the ALCI Program.

ALCI 61, Advanced Reading and Vocabulary Acquisition Strategies, 3 Units
This course equips advanced ESL students with the requisite reading and vocabulary acquisition strategies, techniques, and practices necessary to comprehend graduate-level texts while concurrently developing a foundational, field-based lexicon.
Prerequisite: Prerequisites: This course is offered to Advanced level students. As such, students must successfully meet Level 4 exit criteria prior to the course. Must be a student in the ALCI Program.

ALCI 64, Personal Leadership Development, 2 Units
This course equips advanced ESL learners with personal leadership skills and habits necessary for a successful transition into American graduate school life. Each student evaluates his/her physical, intellectual, emotional, vocational, and spiritual development in personal leadership. This course is taken in Level 5 or 6.
Prerequisite: Must be a student in the ALCI Program.

ALCI 65, Christianity and Contemporary Worldviews, 3 Units
This course explores the Christian worldview alongside the most influential worldviews of Western culture, namely naturalism and post-modernism. Students discover how art, politics, and education flow from one’s worldview. This course hones skills in critical thinking, persuasive rhetoric, and introspective reflection, culminating with the articulation/justification of the student’s own worldview.
Prerequisite: Must be a student in the ALCI Program.

ALCI 67, Critical Thinking and Analysis, 3 Units
This course equips advanced ESL students with the requisite strategies, techniques and practices to develop critical and analytical skills necessary to rigorously engage ideas and arguments in spoken and written forms at the graduate level.
Prerequisite: Prerequisites: This course is offered to Level 5-6 students. As such, students must successfully meet Level 4 exit criteria prior to the course. Must be a student in the ALCI Program.

ALCI 68, Advanced Research Project, 1-3 Units
This course equips Level 6 students in advanced skills of research, writing, and presentation in the field of their master’s program, and serves as a supplementary course for those who need additional ALCI units. This optional independent tutorial course replaces certain waived Level 6 courses as approved by ALCI administration.
Prerequisite: Prerequisite: ALCI 58. Must be a student in the ALCI program.

ALCI 99, ESL Tutorial: Communication Skills, 1-4 Units
This course offers supplemental learning to international students enrolled in ALCI, undergraduate or graduate courses, who have been required to receive remedial academic support in ESL. Course content will be tailored to meet the specific needs of the student(s), according to the skills required by the referring instructor or program. The ALCI director, APU instructors or program directors may refer students to take this tutorial. This course may be repeated as required by the recommending department.

Faculty
Program Director and Associate Professor
Michael Chamberlain (http://www.apu.edu/clas/faculty/mchamberlain), Ph.D.

Assistant Professor
Lauren Carroll (http://www.apu.edu/clas/faculty/ldcarroll), M.A.

Senior Adjunct Faculty
Denzil Barnett (http://www.apu.edu/clas/faculty/dbarnett), Ph.D. Cand.

Adjunct Faculty
Jennifer Cachiaras (http://www.apu.edu/international/alci/faculty/jcachiaras), M.S.
Kevin Chan (http://www.apu.edu/international/alci/faculty/kevinchan), M.A.
Robert Rader (http://www.apu.edu/international/alci/faculty/rrader), M.A.
Bryan Shaw (http://www.apu.edu/international/alci/faculty/bshaw), M.A.

Rita Su, M.A.

Rita Van Dyke-Kao (http://www.apu.edu/clas/faculty/rkao), M.A.