

March 31, 2020

Hello ESL families,

Thank you for your continued patience during these difficult times. There have been many adjustments over the past two weeks. We hope this letter helps you understand some of the changes in the Luther College ESL Program.

Non-ESL Classes

Students in all non-ESL classes (like History, Math, Science) will receive a **minimum** grade of 50 percent. For example, if a student had a 32 percent in English and an 87 percent in Math, they would receive a minimum grade of 50 percent in English and an 87 percent in Math. Grades are determined as of March 13, 2020.

All students will be given a chance to raise their grades and improve their education by participating in extra learning opportunities. Teachers will contact their students to explain these options. If students participate and receive higher marks, grades can increase, but no grades will fall below 50% or what students had earned as of March 13, 2020.

ESL Classes

ESL classes will be different from non-ESL classes. The ESL program will continue as usual. The ESL program can determine passing and failing grades based on work up to June 17. This is a unique program offered at Luther College to make sure your child's ESL needs are met. ESL classes are designed for students to learn the skills needed to help achieve success in mainstream classes.

This means ESL students will still need to meet us ONLINE, complete the assigned work, and demonstrate the skills to continue to the next level. They can still fail this course if the work is not completed, or if they fail to meet the standards set by the program (75%).

ESL classes will happen during their regular time on the Luther timetable. Students need to plan to attend these classes at the assigned time and arrange to meet with their teacher if they cannot attend. Teachers will also help students to ensure that the workload is manageable. Students will have lots of opportunities to ask questions.

ESL Delivery

Our teachers are well-prepared to deliver our program. Students will get important information through Google Classroom and speak to their teacher using ZOOM video technology. It is important that students check their Google Classroom regularly, as teachers will send updates, assignments, and changes.

Teachers will tell students which days s/he is having class during the regular time and which days will be office hours when they can ask questions or work on assignments. Usually, the group classes will meet at least three times a week and the tutorial sessions will continue at the normal times.

Our ESL program supports students so they are prepared for their regular classes. We know how hard our students have worked to improve their English skills. We want to reward them by providing the best ESL program possible!

If you have any questions, please contact me at greg.smith@luthercollege.edu.

Thank you for your time.

Greg Smith
ESL Program Director