DLIELC STUDENT PROFILE GUIDELINES
Selecting English Comprehension Level (ECL) Requirements
March 2012

General Information

The English Comprehension Level (ECL) tests English language proficiency through reading and listening comprehension items. Speaking and writing skills are not directly tested. A student's background knowledge, experience, and aptitude in a specialty field **IS NOT** tested on the ECL. Therefore, whereas the ECL is an indicator of a student's general English language knowledge, the overall language competence a student demonstrates when completing specific tasks in a follow-on training (FOT) setting is influenced by the student's language knowledge, topical knowledge and personal characteristics.

In the DLIELC Student Profile chart below, English language training level ability statements and limitations are based on DLIELC historical data and curriculum objectives.
- These statements *suggest* levels of proficiency in other skills.
  - The ECL tests reading, listening comprehension, vocabulary knowledge, and grammar knowledge. ECL test scores might suggest a general proficiency in speaking and writing, but these skills are not directly tested in the ECL.
- These statements *suggest* general areas of capability.
  - The range of ability within each DLIELC training level can vary.

Ability can fluctuate based on the following:
- A student's ability can be stronger or weaker in some skills (reading, writing, speaking, listening) than others.
- A student functions at a higher/lower level in their own language.
  - A student has a higher/lower educational level in his or her native country.
  - A student's personality and cultural background may influence performance.
- DLIELC General English Training (GET) and Specialized English Training (SET) students typically demonstrate greater abilities than direct entry students since they have experienced several weeks of acclimation and exposure to authentic language.
- Students who have military specialty content knowledge and/or experience in their native language tend to have better success with both SET and follow-on training (FOT) courses.

Recommended procedures for determining an ECL requirement for an FOT course
1) Check the guidance in the *Joint Security Cooperation Education and Training* (JSCET) regulation 3 Jan 11 (Army Regulation 12-15, SECNAVINST 4950.4B, AFI 16-105) Chapter 5, Section IV, 5-14 and Section V, 5-18.
2) Use the DLIELC Student Profile Guidelines chart to determine the general level of English proficiency desired.
3) Reference ECL requirements of comparable training courses in the Military Articles and Services List (MASL).
4) Contact AETC/A3T if you have questions about the ECL requirements and recommended prerequisites which might be applicable for your training course.

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ECL Requirement and FOT Examples	DLIELC Training Level & Limitations	Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) and Other Possible Prerequisites
60-65 ECL Less than 1% of FOT courses select this level of proficiency Target level for "hands on" type jobs Sheet metal worker Light-wheeled vehicle mechanic Unit supply Construction equipment operator	**The DLIELC-trained language learner in this range has the ability to:** • Communicate at a basic level sufficient for performing non-skilled tasks. • Read and understand simple instructions and elementary military texts with basic military themes (ranks, branches, common military courtesies). • Handle basic social interactions such as seeking and giving information, requesting and granting permission, and expressing preferences, all at a very basic level without elaboration. • Provide simple descriptions of concrete procedures using minimally connected sentences. • Understand the main idea of oral announcements up to 45 seconds in length or approximately 150 words in length. • Listen to a short message (in a face-to-face interaction or on the phone), take notes, and relay the message to a third person. • Listen to a text and complete a simplified outline, graphic organizer, or flow chart. • Write simple as well as compound sentences and combine two simple sentences to create a complex sentence.	

ECL Requirement and FOT Examples	DLIELC Training Level & Limitations	Oral Proficiency Interview and Other Possible Prerequisites
70-75 ECL Target level for technical jobs Basic Maintenance (70) Supply training (70) On-the-job training (70) Medical service technician (70) Basic electronics (70) Basic Officer Leadership courses (75) Captain's Career courses (75) Military Police Basic Officer Leadership (75) Army Maintenance Management (75)	**The DLIELC-trained language learner in this range has the ability to:** • Understand and use materials required for most technical vocations (technical orders, simple manuals) and other material based on general military themes. • Conduct routine social and business interactions, such as giving recommendations and suggestions, requesting and offering assistance, asking for and making comparisons, expressing cause and effect, inquiring about and responding to reasons and purposes, and giving sequenced instructions. • Communicate face-to-face or via telephone/radio to perform official duties. • Read a text up to 300 words in length, identify the main idea and supporting details, and supply notes in an outline or graphic organizer. • Write a summary of an oral text 1-3 minutes in length. • Participate in a discussion on a familiar topic.	

ECL Requirement and FOT Examples	DLIELC Training Level & Limitations	Oral Proficiency Interview and Other Possible Prerequisites
80 ECL Appropriate level for higher level professional military education (PME)* or hazardous courses. Management courses Some undergraduate pilot training (UPT) EOD Diving courses	**The DLIELC-trained language learner in this range has the ability to:** • Function in an English-only academic or highly technical environment. • Exhibit listening comprehension and greater facility with speech as demonstrated in situational dialogs, various types of oral texts, and role-playing activities. • Write a summary of an oral paragraph up to 3 minutes in length and accurately write a paraphrase of an oral paragraph 1 minute in length. • Read authentic military and semi-technical texts 350 words in length in a variety of formats, such as essays, reports, and briefings. • Accurately transcribe from dictation. • Write an original cohesive paragraph up to 150 words in length in military format as well as in the following styles: descriptive, narrative, and expository.	An Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) is a prerequisite for aviation courses, where listening comprehension and speaking and pronunciation skills are critical for success. For students attending PME courses, a DLIELC SET course in Specialized Group Academics (SGA) is highly recommended. FOT courses with a highly technical or professional component should consider previous experience in the content or technical area as a prerequisite. Some FOT sites use the Nelson-Denny reading test for additional assessment of reading ability.

ECL Requirement and FOT Examples	DLIELC Training Level & Limitations	Oral Proficiency Interview and Other Possible Prerequisites
85 ECL Advanced flying courses and some UPT Safety engineer courses Intelligence officer course Public affairs officer course	**The DLIELC-trained language learner in this range has the ability to:** • Handle oral presentations, lectures, class debates, military briefings and impromptu speeches; when giving presentations, student can adhere to an assigned time limit. • Speak extensively about work and professional experience. • Conduct library research and produce an essay of 450-500 words consisting of a minimum of five logically connected, cohesive paragraphs each 90-150 words in length; the essay has a recognizable introduction, development, and conclusion. • Incorporate abstract concepts into writing and speaking • Successfully interact with native speakers not used to dealing with non-native speakers of English.	An Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) test is also a prerequisite for exchange officer programs, advanced and/or instructor aviation courses, and public affairs courses.

ECL Requirement Score and FOT Examples	DLIELC Training Level & Limitations	Oral Proficiency Interview and Other Possible Prerequisites
90 ECL This advanced professional level of proficiency is *rarely selected* for FOT courses. Less than 0.5% of courses require this level of proficiency. Judge Advocate Officer graduate program International Counterterrorism Fellows program	• Students with an ECL requirement of 90 should be scheduled for The Advanced Language Proficiency Skills courses, taught in the Advanced English Studies Section at DLIELC, before proceeding to FOT. The DLIELC-trained language learner in these courses has the ability to interpret, analyze, and critique academic materials from various sources.	The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is required for some post-graduate courses.

* Students attending longer PME courses typically demonstrate adaptability to course demands and language requirements with much skill progression as they are increasingly exposed to authentic and academic language and as they establish a support group consisting of peers and faculty. Prep courses administered on site also serve to close the gap with language skills and performance expectations.