

The Summer English for Legal Purposes (SELP) Program

Vanderbilt University's English Language Center (ELC) provides Legal-English support to students at the Vanderbilt Law School. The Summer English for Legal Purposes (SELP) Program was established for LL.M. students in 2005.

All LL.M. students whose native language is not English are strongly encouraged to enroll in the optional Summer English for Legal Purposes (SELP) Program, which is taught at the Law School. This intensive 80-hour program is designed to provide incoming LL.M. students with the language and academic skills needed to succeed in the demanding LL.M. program at Vanderbilt Law School.

Dates: The program dates are Monday, July 20 - Friday, August 14, 9 am - 1 pm. The class meets at the Law School. We will notify you of the classroom location in July.

If you plan to enroll in the Summer English for Legal Purposes (SELP) Program, please [notify us by email](#). We will register you for the program.

Tuition is \$2,000 and will be billed to your student account in July.

Enrollment and withdrawal policy: After Summer English for Legal Purposes begins, if you withdraw by 5:00 p.m. CST on Day 2 of the program, you will receive a 90% tuition refund. There will be no refund for withdrawing after 5:00 p.m. CST on Day 2 of the program.

Program Description:

- Twenty hours per week, for four weeks, of intensive in-class instruction and additional hours for individual assistance as needed by participants
- The fundamentals of an LL.M.: learn what to expect from Vanderbilt's LL.M. program
- Oral and written communication development, including presentations, small-group and large-group discussion and responses
- Visits to Tennessee courts and local venues to examine the United States legal system and discuss real-world application of legal practice with judges and law practitioners
- A Certificate of Completion from the Vanderbilt University English Language Center is available upon completion of the Summer English for Legal Purposes Program, Academic Writing for LL.Ms, and Academic Speaking for LL.Ms.

Program Objectives:

- Adapt more quickly to the US law school curriculum
- Increase ability to listen to short lectures and take effective notes
- Gain higher level of self confidence in public speaking and interacting in the classroom
- Augment legal/academic vocabulary in writing and speaking
- Increase ability to brief cases
- Increase ability to summarize and paraphrase case elements
- Improve clarity, correctness, and conciseness in legal exercises and exam writing
- Gain higher degree of grammatical accuracy
- Improve use of articles, prepositions, verb tenses in written and spoken language
- Understand how to read like a legal professional
- Become acquainted with American culture and American legal culture