A Message from the Dean

Bergen Community College offers a comprehensive ESL/APE program at the Ciarco Learning Center in the heart of downtown Hackensack. Whether your goal is to enroll in college or advance your career, our classes are designed to develop your written and spoken English in a short amount of time. The adult learning center is ideal for the motivated student who may not be ready to commit to a semester-long academic program. Our classes are small and the atmosphere at the Ciarco Learning Center is warm and friendly. I’ve seen so many students come through our program and move onward and upward in their career and college programs. I know that you can too.

Sandra Sroka, Dean
Bergen Community College Hackensack

Why Study English At Ciarco?

Outstanding, dedicated instructors with NJ State Teaching Certification and/or master’s degrees
• Innovative, high quality, interactive learning
• Small class sizes
• State-of-the-art computer labs
• One-on-one tutoring and academic support
• Free webinar series: interactive and fun mini-lessons on challenging grammar topics
• Affordable tuition
• Seven-week learning cycles throughout the year: Start soon with no waitlists!

Start Here: ESL Placement Test

A no-cost Placement Test is required for all participants. Call (201) 489-1551 or stop by the front desk to make your Placement Test appointment. Please arrive on time for your placement test.

ESL Testing Schedule

Wednesday and Thursday
Start times: 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Arrive on time at the start time you choose.

Course Descriptions

Classes meet four days a week, Monday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted).

Beginner I (AL 512) This is a two part course. - For the true beginner, this course introduces students to basic grammar structures while concentrating on vocabulary development. Taught with an emphasis on conversation, students will read and write basic paragraphs. Students will also get an introduction to American culture.

Beginner I Part I (Prerequisite: Placement Test) 75hrs, $385
Beginner I Part II (Prerequisite: Beginner I Part I) 75hrs, $385

Beginner II (AL 513) The Beginner II course builds on basic grammar structures learned in Beginner I. Students will increase their vocabulary and review fundamental pronunciation. Students will also begin to organize and write in paragraph form. (Prerequisite: Beginner I or Placement Test) 75hrs, $385

Intermediate I (AL 492) Continue building English skills with a strong focus on reading, conversation and language comprehension. Students will strengthen their use of verb tenses, and regular and irregular verbs. Writing detailed paragraphs with new vocabulary and exploring American culture is also included. (Prerequisite: Beginner II or Placement Test) 75hrs, $385

Intermediate II (AL 493) Taught with an emphasis on conversation, this course continues to develop higher-level listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Grammar usage includes the future tense, modal verbs, the present perfect and superlatives! Students will write multi-paragraph stories. (Prerequisite: Intermediate I or Placement Test) 75hrs, $385

Advanced I (AL 494) This program continues to build advanced grammar, vocabulary, speaking, reading and writing skills. Students will focus on the refinement of English skills, grammar structures, language and communication. Navigating English language Internet resources is also included. (Prerequisite: Intermediate I or Placement Test) 75hrs, $385

Advanced II (AL 495) This course is designed to refine a student’s English language abilities further. Students will analyze fiction and non-fiction texts to determine key facts and main ideas. Practicing the writing process and the development of structured essays are included. (Prerequisite: Advanced I or Placement Test) 75hrs, $385

Conversation & Writing I (AL 514) Practice spoken and written English. Review grammar, punctuation and sentence structure. Students will engage in daily discussions that form the basis for written assignments, including short and long essays. (Prerequisite: Advanced II or Placement Test) 75hrs, $385

Conversation & Writing II (AL 515) Express yourself with conversation for everyday living, and write with clarity and confidence at a high level for work or academic study. Students will enhance their competencies in grammar, listening, speaking, reading and writing. (Prerequisite: Conversation & Writing I) 75hrs, $385

American Pronunciation (AL 499) Practice pronunciation skills to communicate clearly and accurately. Review vowel and consonant systems, and practice rhythm, intonation and sequencing. Master easy word patterns through fast paced drill and interactive, fun conversation activities. (Prerequisite: Beginner I) 75hrs, $385

New! Advanced ESL Online Practice Advanced English skills from the convenience of your home, workplace, or favorite Wi-Fi hotspot! Students will speak with their classmates and their instructor using the Internet. Self-study exercises in reading, writing, speaking and listening are included. Students will use a hard copy class textbook in addition to a variety of electronic resources. (Prerequisite: Placement Test) Tuesdays and Thursdays for six weeks, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., $295.00 (Textbook: $35.99)

Beginning Conversation (AL 610) Feel more confident when speaking English by practicing in a relaxed and supportive environment. Basic everyday communications will be practiced. Includes individual and group conversations and basic writing skills. (Co-requisite: Beginning I or Beginning) 56hrs, Monday - Thursday, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m., $295

Let’s Talk! (AL 496) Learn how to communicate with better pronunciation, speaking and listening skills, while increasing your vocabulary. Discussion of a wide variety of practical and current subjects encourages students to express their feelings, ideas, and opinions. Discussion and conversation form the basis of weekly assignments. (Prerequisite: Beginning II or Placement Test) 56hrs, Monday - Thursday, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m., $295

Speaking and Pronunciation Be more effective and confident when speaking English. Practice rules for stress, rhythm, and intonation. Define vowel and consonant patterns. Students will also use the Internet to research class topics. Prerequisite: Intermediate II or Placement Test 56hrs, Monday - Thursday, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m., $295

English Express (AL 711) Here’s a quick start to improve your speaking and listening skills. Whether you’re a beginning, intermediate or advanced student, you’ll enjoy this lively interactive speaking class. Talk about everything from everyday topics to "hot" topics. 33hrs, Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., $150.
Course Dates
- September 6, 2016 - October 20, 2016
- October 31, 2016 - December 15, 2016
- January 3, 2017 - February 16, 2017
- February 27, 2017 - April 13, 2017
- May 1, 2017 - June 15, 2017

Register For Your Classes
- Call (201) 489-1551 to sign up! We accept money orders, personal checks or credit/debit cards. Cash is not accepted.
- Registration can be done in various ways: In person at our Hackensack location, via telephone/fax. There is also mail in registration for returning students. Payments must be made in full at the time of registration. Changes in registration must be completed within the first three days of class (with administrative approval).
- Refunds are granted no later than three business days before class begins.
- All refund requests must be made in writing. Refunds are automatically issued if a class is canceled.

Registration Hours:
Monday - Thursday:
8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Friday:
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Call us: (201) 489-1551
Like us: www.facebook.com/CiarcoCenter
Visit us: www.bergen.edu/Ciarco

Tutoring & Language Center
No cost tutoring help is included with your paid tuition!
Tutoring Hours:
Monday - Thursday:
9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Friday:
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (afternoons by appointment only)
Come to the Center in room 132 or call (201) 301-1296.