

FAQs about the College of Marin Intensive English Program

Where is the IEP located? In Novato at the Indian Valley Campus. The IEP is in building Ohlone 19, lower level. Park in lot number 6. You will need to buy a daily parking permit for \$3.00, or purchase a semester pass (by showing your registration receipt) from Admissions and Records for \$50. The sticker is good at both the Kentfield and Indian Valley campuses.

What courses/activities does the IEP offer? The IEP offers 4 courses: Grammar for Oral and Written Communication, Writing with Grammar Practice, Speaking/Listening/ Pronunciation, and Reading and Vocabulary Development with Topics in American Culture. There are 3 levels of each course. Each course meets either in the morning or afternoon, twice a week, Tuesday and Thursday or Wednesday and Friday for a total of 5 hours a week. There are two field trips per semester in addition to social events to help students make friends.

When do the courses start? The 16-week semester goes from January 19 –May 14, 2010. Session A (first half of the semester) goes from January 19 to March 12, 2010. Session B (second half of the semester) goes from March 16– May 14, 2010. Students do not need to enroll in both Sessions A and B; they may enroll in either or both of the sessions.

Who attends the IEP? **F-1s:** Students living outside the U.S. come to the U.S. to study for a semester or more for whatever reason. These students are called F-1s and are not immigrants or tourists or au pairs. **Tourists:** Students with these visas are limited in the length of time they can study. At COM IEP they may study up to 10 (Note: This is a change.)hours in one 8-week session. **J-1s (au pairs):** These students usually attend 5 or 10 hours per week, and their host family pays up to a set amount, as required by their agreement with the au pair agency. **Residents:** Non-native English speakers living in Marin County for any length of time who want to improve their communication skills for personal or professional reasons.

How much does the IEP cost? The costs are for 8-week / 16-week sessions for 5 hrs/wk \$375/\$775, 10 hrs/wk \$725/\$1425, 15 hrs/wk \$975/\$1925, and 20 hrs/wk \$1175/\$2325. F-1 students pay one fee (\$2500) for the 16-week semester (no 8-week option). F-1 students are also required to buy health insurance.

Do California residents pay less money than non-residents? No, the costs are the same whether the student is a resident or not. The only exception is the \$2500 for F-1 students.

How do students sign up for the IEP? Most students (not F-1s) can register online at www.marincommunityed.org, or in person at either the Kentfield or IVC Admissions and Records Office starting January 4, 2010. Students need to fill out a white *Community Education Application for Admission Form*. On the back is the CRN (course reference number), which they select from the IEP schedule according to the number of hours they are registering for.

What tests are required? During the first week of the semester (January 19–21) all part-time and full-time students are tested for placement in their courses. There are 3 levels to every course, so students are placed in one of the three levels. For new students in Session B, testing takes place the week before the sessions starts on the days of March 9, 10, 11, 12. Call the IEP to set up a testing time.

Are these tests the same as the ESL credit and non-credit tests at the Kentfield Campus? No, the IEP tests are only for IEP placement. They are different from the English and ESL tests at the Kentfield campus.

What is the Institutional TOEFL? This is a test for F-1 students to enter College of Marin credit program. It is not required of residents or au pairs unless the au pairs are changing from a J-1 to an F-1 visa.

Where can students get more information? The IEP webpage is at www.marin.edu. Click on *Intensive English Program*. Students can visit the program by contacting the IEP coordinator, Sara Oser at 415.883.2211 X8579 or by emailing sara.oser@marin.edu. If students want information about the non-credit or credit ESL courses, they should contact the ESL office at the Kentfield campus. The assistant there is Alex Suarez: alejandro.suarez@marin.edu. 485.9644 (on campus 7644). Questions about International Education at COM should go to Janice Austin: Janice.austin@marin.edu 485. 9316 (on campus 7316).

