Transcript Analysis

The Intensive English Language Institute (IELI) conducted the following assessment by monitoring the transcripts of former IELI students through Summer Semester 2007 (The most current semester for which data is available). This study provides the GPA and retention data that IELI faculty need to make decisions regarding the effectiveness of curriculum. It also helps faculty make judgments regarding the overall ability of IELI and Utah State University to provide an academic experience that students will value. The following are the results of an analysis of the transcripts of IELI students who exited IELI between Summer Semester 2006 and Summer Semester 2007. Four students began the program between Fall Semester 2003 and Spring Semester 2005. The remainder of the students began between Summer Semester 2005 and Summer Semester 2007. The majority of the students began IELI Summer Semester 2006 (20%) and Fall Semester 2006 (21.5%).

Program Completion

Two hundred seventy-three (273) students entered the IELI program during the period of the evaluation. One hundred fifty (150) of these students are continuing to study in IELI or have not yet completed three semesters of university courses outside of IELI (IELI courses also equal university courses). These students will be included in a future assessment. Of the one hundred twenty-three (123) students who exited the IELI program during the period of study, fifty-eight (58) students (47%) completed all level 4 courses (the final level) of the IELI program. Thirty (30) additional students (24%) were only required to enroll in and complete the level 4 writing course.

Thirty-three (33) students did not complete IELI classes through level 4. Nine (9) students (27%) who left IELI were exchange students and returned home after one or two semesters at the completion of their exchange program. Seven (7) students (21%) took the TOEFL or IELTS examinations, received a score acceptable for USU proficiency requirements, and were not required to complete their remaining IELI courses. An additional seventeen (17) students (52%) left IELI for a variety of other reasons before completing all IELI levels.

USU Entry and Retention

Ninety-seven (97) of the one hundred twenty-three (123) students who exited the IELI program were eligible to enroll at Utah State University after proving English proficiency by either completing the IELI program or taking the TOEFL or IELTS exam. Six (6) students (6%) left USU, choosing to attend other universities or to return home. (Note: while most students in IELI intend to get a degree at USU, some attend IELI courses to improve their English for personal or professional reasons or to study English in preparation to study at another university or college. Others come to USU for a short period of time as exchange students.) Three (3) students (3%) enrolled in USU courses but did not complete three semesters of university study, leaving after only one or two semesters of classes at USU. One of these students had a "0"GPA; the other two had GPA of 2.33 and 3.69 respectively.

At the end of the study, eighty-eight (88) of the students who began attending USU classes after completing IELI were continuing their studies at Utah State University. That number represents 97% of the ninety-one (91) students who began studying at USU after completing the IELI program and 72% of the one hundred twenty-three (123) students who exited the IELI program during the period of study. After completing three semesters at USU, these eighty-eight (88) students exhibited GPAs ranging from .45 to 3.95 with an average GPA of 3.11.

The update was completed in February 2010. The next study will follow students who completed IELI Fall Semester 2008 through Summer Semester 2009.