Undergraduate Composition
Choosing Between ENG W131 and ENG W131ML

How do I know which course to take?
For information on all courses that satisfy the Undergraduate Composition requirement, please visit the “English Composition” webpage at http://www.iub.edu/~engweb/composition/courses.shtml. Most international students typically enroll in ENG W131ML within their first four semesters at Indiana University, based on their IEPE placement and on consultation with their academic advisor. However, the following guidelines can help you to determine the appropriate composition placement for your first year, because ultimately you must choose. To decide your appropriate composition course placement, you should consider several factors together; there is not one single factor that will determine it.

When should I consider enrolling in English W131?
You should consider enrolling in ENG W131 if:

- English has been the medium of instruction for most of your education prior to Indiana University.
- Your speaking/listening skills in English are strong enough that you will be able to understand your instructor’s or classmates’ conversation at a comfortable pace.
- You are familiar with the informal written and spoken English often used in class by instructors and students at Indiana University.
- You read in English on a regular basis.

Generally speaking, you are well prepared for ENG W131 if you have done a lot of reading and writing in English during high school. Instructors will assume that you are prepared to read, summarize, or analyze published material from magazines, newspapers, journals, or book chapters. They will also assume that you are prepared to write a persuasive essay in some form. And they may assume that you have read or could read a full-length book in English, and that you have used a computer for drafting or revising essays.

When should I consider enrolling in English W131ML?
You should consider enrolling in ENG W131ML if:

- English has not been the medium of instruction for most of your education prior to Indiana University.
- Your speaking/listening skills in English are comfortable, but perhaps not as strong as your writing/reading skills in English.
• You can read difficult passages in English, but you will need extra time.
• When you read in English, more than 10% of vocabulary is new or unfamiliar.
• Your recent TOEFL total score is between 79-100 (iBT) or 550-600 (paper-based); your recent TOEFL writing subscore is below 26 (iBT) or 60 (paper-based).

Generally speaking, you should consider ENG W131ML if you would benefit from a course that gives extra attention to learning the rhetorical strategies and conventions related to academic writing and research in English. It is designed for undergraduate writers whose core educational backgrounds occurred in languages other than English.

**Will I learn different things in ENG W131ML?**
ENG W131ML is not an “easier” version of ENG W131 or a course in intensive grammar. It bears the same amount of credit, requires the same amount of writing, and places the same emphasis on critical thinking and analytical writing as does ENG W131; however, it will encourage you to gain lexical knowledge of a particular issue or topic area, equip you to become a more independent writer of English, and provide you with the opportunity to focus on specific linguistic concerns. You should also expect to read and write daily as a way of building fluency.

**What if I have to take T101?**
If your score on the required Indiana English Proficiency Exam (IEPE) results in a placement for T101: L2 Academic Literacy Development, or if you feel you would benefit from additional courses to develop academic literacy in English, you are required to complete those courses before enrolling in ENG W131 so that you can succeed in our course the first time you take it. The T101 course descriptions are available through Second Language Studies at: [http://www.indiana.edu/~dsls/eli/clip.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~dsls/eli/clip.shtml).