



Vermont State
University

MULTILINGUAL STUDENTS SERVICES (MSS)

An information booklet for faculty members

VTSU Multilingual Students Services offer support for faculty members whose students are using more than one language in their daily life and need more accommodations to get familiar with using English for academic learning purposes.

FOR ANY INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT DR. MARY DINH,
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MSS AT
MARY.DINH@VERMONTSTATE.EDU

Faculty can utilize MSS for the following purposes:

1



Evaluating Multilingual Students' Needs

Conduct assessments to evaluate students' proficiency in both their native language and English, identifying language areas (listen, speak, read, and write) where they may need additional support. Provide cultural orientations in American classrooms.

2



Enhancing Students' English Proficiency

Provide 1-on-1 tutoring in both English and the student's native language to assist with comprehension and coursework. ESL courses are available for them to take to improve English abilities, including ESL 1020, ESL 1030, ESL 2010 and ENG 1055

3



Giving Extra Time Allowed for Assessment

Research has shown that bilingual students have more divergent thinking yet may need additional time to rephrase their ideas in a target language. Hence, MSS can proctor students' quizzes and exams with your permitted additional time and/or translational tools.

4



Connecting Students with Peer Support & Foreign Language Learning Courses

Connect students with peer support groups where multilingual students can share experiences, strategies, and success tips. Understanding and navigating the ability to switch between languages in different contexts.

5



Fostering Culturally Relevant Pedagogies

Work with faculty to develop teaching strategies that accommodate multilingual students. Develop culturally relevant resources and materials that support bilingual education and understanding.



Helpful in-class accommodations that faculty members can consider to support multilingual students:



1

Reasonable extensions of time on assignments if appropriate tutorial assistance is in process (DeDonno et al., 2014; Woodfield & Economidou-Kogetsidis, 2010).



2

Reasonable extensions of time for examinations (Shohamy, 2011), with or without a reader, that is administered by Multilingual Students Services.



3

Reduction of credit penalty for written errors consistent with developing language proficiency including misspellings, word usage, sentence structure, and punctuation, except in coursework where those skills are being assessed directly (Dinh, 2023).



4

Alternative assignments to support spoken language and class participation except where those skills are being assessed directly (Gorter & Cenoz, 2017).



5



Use of a recording device for course lectures and/or discussions to enhance listening comprehension or publish the Powerpoint slides or lecture notes (Fenner et al., 2023)

References

- DeDonno, M. A., Rivera-Torres, K., Monis, A., & Fagan, J. F. (2014). The influence of a time limit and bilingualism on Scholastic Assessment Test performance. *North American Journal of Psychology*, 16(2), 211-224.
- Dinh, T. M. H. (2023). *Synergic Concepts and Lexical Idiosyncrasies as Means of Reconceptualization to Develop Bilingual Pragmatic Competence: A Study of Sequential Bilingual Students in Different Sociocultural Contexts*. State University of New York at Albany.
- Fenner, D. S., Snyder, S., & Gregoire-Smith, M. (2023). *Unlocking Multilingual Learners' Potential: Strategies for Making Content Accessible*. Corwin Press.
- Gorter, D., & Cenoz, J. (2017). Language education policy and multilingual assessment. *Language and Education*, 31(3), 231-248.
- Shohamy, E. (2011). Assessing multilingual competencies: Adopting construct valid assessment policies. *The Modern Language Journal*, 95(3), 418-429.
- Woodfield, H. & Economidou-Kogetsidis, M. (2010). 'I just need more time': A study of native and non-native students' requests to faculty for an extension. *Multilingua*, 29(1), 77-118.
<https://doi.org/10.1515/mult.2010.004>

Placement of Multilingual Students into Academic English Elective Courses (3 Credits/Course):

Advise Your Students to Register for ESL courses

ESL 1020 - Developmental English (FALL)

1

A comprehensive course designed to support our ESL students in developing essential language skills! This course focuses on the four key areas of language acquisition: speaking, listening, reading, writing, and a strong foundation in grammar and vocabulary, critical for both academic success and effective communication in daily life.

ESL 1030 - Success in Academic English (FALL)

2

The course will focus on equipping students with the strategies needed to excel in academic contexts, particularly in understanding complex texts, conducting research, and synthesizing information effectively. By honing these critical skills, students will be better prepared to succeed across their coursework and contribute meaningfully to scholarly discussions.

ESL 2010 - Advanced English (SPRING)

3

The course will focus on equipping students with the strategies needed to excel in academic contexts, particularly in understanding complex texts, conducting research, and synthesizing information effectively. By honing these critical skills, students will be better prepared to succeed across their coursework and contribute meaningfully to scholarly discussions.

ENG 1055 - Language and Power: a Focus on Intercultural Communication (SPRING)

4

A course designed to explore the dynamics of language in shaping power relations and intercultural communication! This course is particularly beneficial for students who are currently studying abroad or planning to do so, as it emphasizes developing intercultural communicative competence—a crucial skill for thriving in diverse cultural settings.





RESOURCES FOR MULTILINGUAL STUDENTS

HELPING THEM PASS YOUR COURSES!

Nineteen percent of Vermont State University (VTSU)'s first-year students in Fall 2023 identified as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC), including an increasing number of international and exchange students, refugees, immigrants, and domestic students with multilingual heritage.

Library Services for English Language Learners:
<https://libraries.vsc.edu/subject/writing/multilingual>

Academic Support - Multilingual Students Shared Resources for Learning English in Different Subjects: [VTSU | Multilingual Services](#)

(or copy and paste the link below or scan the QR code:

<https://livevsc.sharepoint.com/:u:/r/sites/VTSUStudentSuccessResources/MultilingualServices/SitePages/LearningTeamHome.aspx?csf=1&web=1&share=EawTgMZsw2ZDuf4sCQTRYKEB1BocMBUZOp80GpQW8chxuA&e=ijag6m>)



For questions and concerns, email Dr. Mary Dinh at
Mary.Dinh@VermontState.edu