



# **ELS Chicago Chicago, Illinois at Dominican University**

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**ELS COUNSELING MANUAL**

UPDATED :2024-08-01

## ELS Chicago

At Dominican University



### About This Center

Experience both urban and suburban city life when you study English at ELS Chicago, located on the beautiful ivy-covered campus of Dominican University in the River Forest, Illinois.

With a wide array of spectator sports, a vibrant nightlife, comedy clubs, live music, world-class museums, and so much more - Chicago is the city that feels like home!

- Total number of ELS students: Average 50 (Maximum 120)
- Number of students per class: Average:17 (Maximum:20)

### Why Choose ELS Chicago

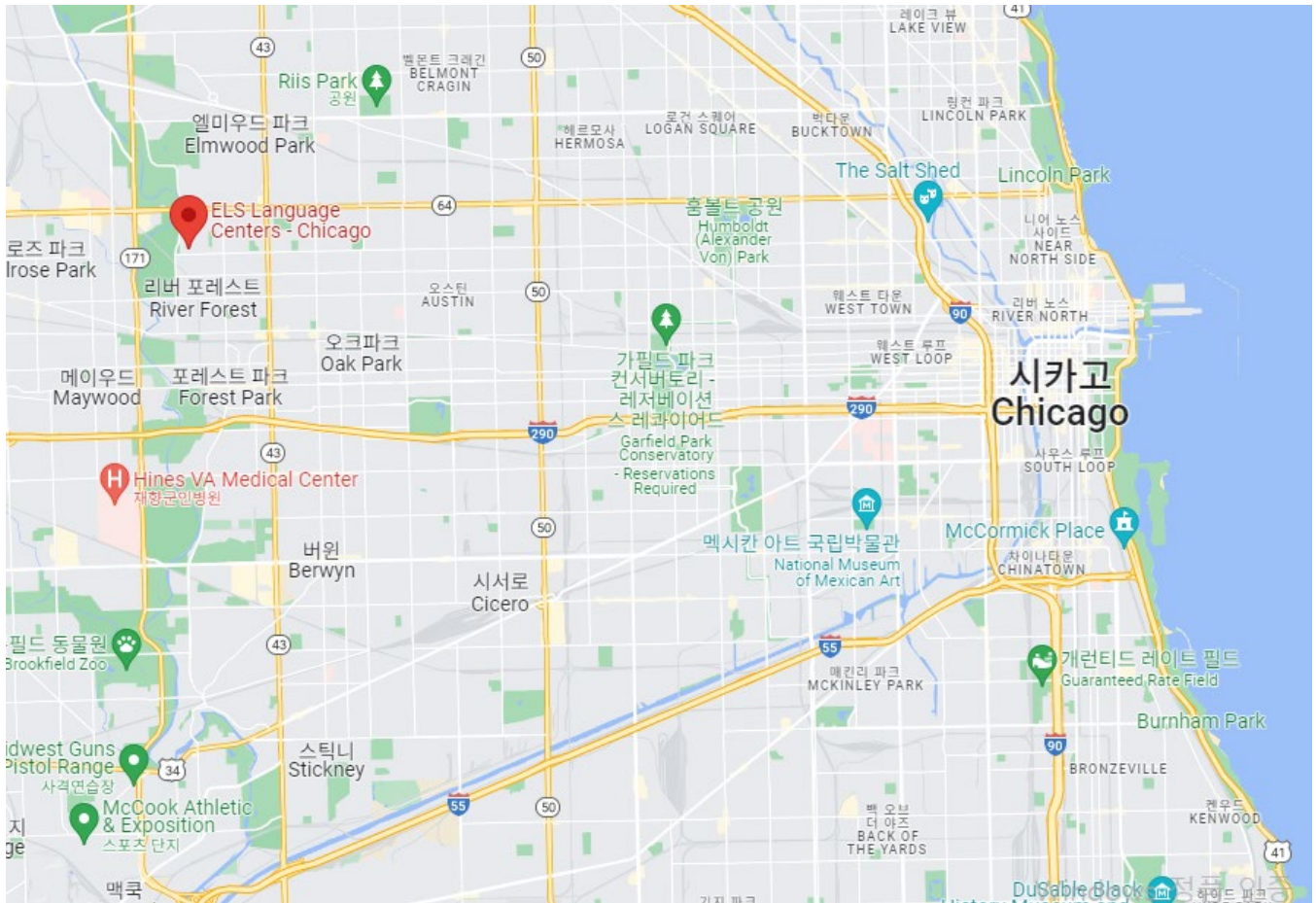
- Live and study in a safe, historic community close to downtown Chicago, and public transportation
- Enjoy a wide variety of student activities: concerts, museums, sporting events and theme parks
- Interact with local university students through class visits and conversation partners programs

### Programs at ELS Chicago

- Intensive English (30 lessons/week)
- Semi-Intensive English (20 lessons/week)
- American Explorer (15 lessons/week)

## Physical Address of ELS Chicago

7900 Division St, River Forest, IL 60305 USA



## 2024 Start Dates – Schedule B Center

(2024) 1/8, 2/5,3/4, 4/1, 4/29, 5/27, 6/24, 7/22, 8/19, 9/16, 10/14, 11/11, 12/9

\* Students may start on any Monday. (Starting on the 4th week of the session is not recommended.)

\* Centres with the same start schedule: LA Country (La Verne), San Francisco North Bay (San Rafael), St. Paul

## About the Host University



### Dominican University

Founded in 1901, Dominican University is located on 30 acres within a tree-lined residential neighborhood just 10 miles west of downtown Chicago. Throughout its growth and expansion, the university has maintained the signature Gothic architectural look established almost 100 years ago by renowned architect Ralph Adams Cram, the architect for Princeton University, the University of Chicago's Rockefeller Chapel and West Point Military Academy. Dominican is one of the most affordable universities to make both the "U.S. News and World Report top-tier and Colleges of Distinction lists". The university combines rigorous academics, internships, research, and 50-plus undergraduate degree options with personal attention and deep interactions in classes that average 16 students. Graduate programs also are available in Business, Education, Social Work, and Library and Information Science. The student body of 2,306 undergraduates and 1,216 graduate students is diverse and includes 110 international students from 17 countries.



**Conditional admission available through ELS UAS:** Yes(Master and higher require prior confirmation)

**ELS Level Accepted:** Level 112

**University Rankings** based on 2022-23 US News Ranking

# 11 in Regional Universities Midwest

#12 in Best Undergraduate Teaching





## Popular Majors

Psychology

Finance

Natural Sciences

Business Administration and Management

Criminology

Marketing/Marketing Management

Neuroscience; Sociology

Biology/Biological Sciences

## Campus Facilities

Baseball field

Basketball court

Cafeteria

Center NOT handicapped accessible

Classrooms NOT handicapped accessible

Computer lab

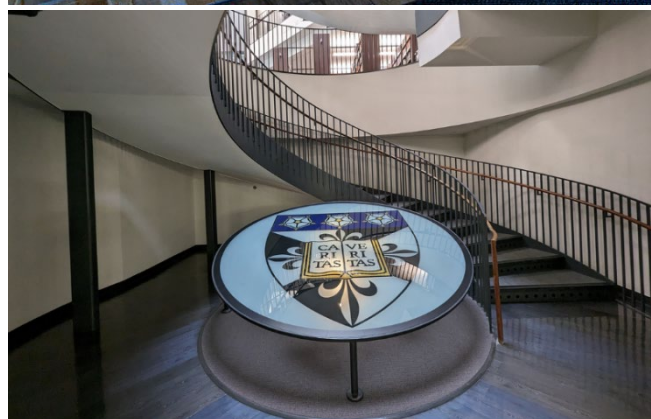
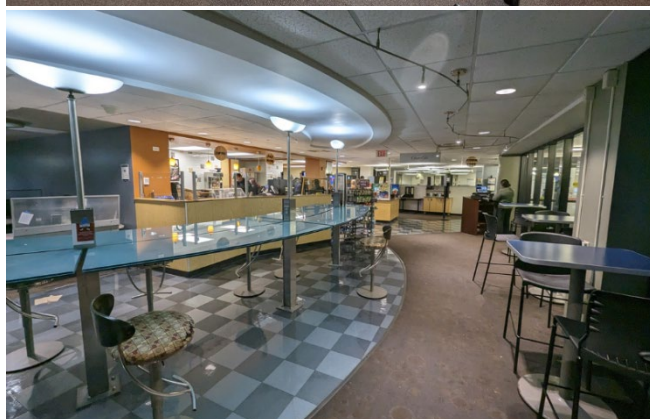
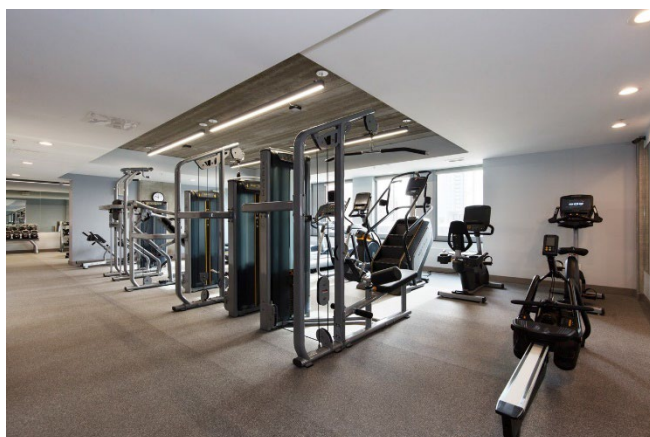
Paid parking nearby

Fitness center

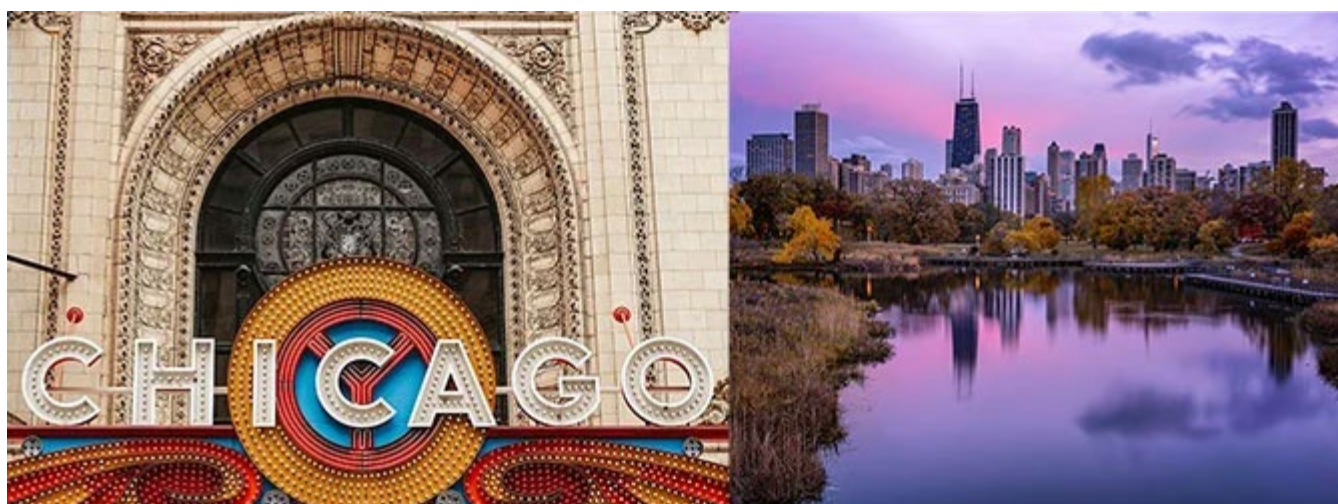
Library

Racquetball/Squash court

Wi-Fi



## About the City and Region - Chicago, OH



Students walk out of the ivy-covered Gothic architecture of Dominican University and find themselves in a green, historical neighborhood with many stunning homes designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. It is a quick walk through tree-lined streets to the local downtown, which contains a large variety of small shops, cafes, grocery stores, and even a vintage movie theater. Local restaurants provide the opportunity to sample Chicago deep-dish pizza, or order French, Asian, Indian, and Middle-Eastern cuisines. While the local community is linked by buses, it is a short distance to the train and subway lines that connect the ELS Center to downtown Chicago, where students can enjoy shopping on the Magnificent Mile, visiting Chicago's world famous museums, or admiring the world-famous architecture by boat or skyscraper. ELS Chicago offers the best of both worlds as students can live in study on a safe, beautiful campus and enjoy all the pleasure and excitement of America's third largest city.

### **Distances to Nearby Cities**

- Milwaukee, WI: 90minutes by Car

### **Area Attractions**



- Millennium Park and the "Bean", Magnificent Mile shopping district, Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago Blues, Jazz, and Lollapalooza music festivals, Lake Michigan beaches, Field Museum, Adler Planetarium, and Shedd Aquarium, Chicago Bulls, Chicago Cubs, Chicago Blackhawks teams

### **Local Transportation**

- Students can enjoy free transportation between the ELS apartments and the local subway line via a shuttle bus provided by Dominican University. Local buses, and the blue and green subway lines offer convenient transportation options, as well as a commuter train line.



## Distances to Key Locations (from ELS Center)

Local Places:	Away	Mode of Transportation
Airport	45/30	Subway/Car
Bank	15/5/10/5	Walk/Bike/Bus/Car
Downtown Chicago	20/10/10/10	Walk/Bike/Bus/Car
Public Transportation	1	Walk
Post Office	25/15/15/10	Walk/Bike/Bus/Car
Restaurants	10/5/5/5	Walk/Bike/Bus/Car
Supermarket	20/10/10/10	Walk/Bike/Bus/Car
Shopping Mall/Outlet	20/30/20/15	Train/Subway/Bus/Car
Pharmacy	10/5//5	Walk/Bike/Car
Sports Stadium	45/45/60/45	Train/Subway/Bus/Car





## Housing

### Homestay



- Room Type: Single occupancy
- Meals: 14 meals per week (Breakfast and Dinner)
- Distance from homestay to ELS Center: Average 45 minutes (Maximum 1 hour)
- Minimum Age: 18

Our homestays are located in historic Chicago neighborhoods within easy walking or cycling distance of the ELS Center. Located on the outskirts of Chicago, homestays provide a safe, quiet place to live and experience American life and culture. Homestay communities are connected by an extensive public transportation network of buses, trains, and two subway lines to provide easy access to the campus and the city.

#### Check-in Time

Sunday before session start date

#### Check-out Time

Saturday after session end date

## ELS Chicago Student Residence (Off-Campus)

479 N. Harlem Ave Oak Park, Chicago, IL 60301



- Room Type: Double occupancy (Min 4 weeks booking Required)
- Meals: No meals included
- Distance to ELS Center: 30 minutes walking distance or 15 minutes by public transportation
- Minimum Age: 18
- ELS's Chicago Student Residence (Oak Park Place Apartments) is an apartment-style accommodation offering double occupancy rooms, in two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartments close to shops, a movie theater, a bookstore, and a variety of restaurants. The residence is located within 30 minutes' walking distance, or 15 minutes by public transportation from the ELS center.
- Males and females can be housed in the same apartment
- Free Wi-Fi access is available for all students

**Oak Park Place Apartments Photo** > [Click Here](#)

**Oak Park Place Apartments Video** > [Click Here](#)

### Check-in Time

Sunday before session start date

### Check-out Time

Saturday after session end date



## ELS Levels

### MASTERS

#### Upon completion of master's levels, students can:

- Level 112 Speak and understand English with ease.
  - Level 111 Read and write with sufficient proficiency to satisfy professional and university requirements.
  - Level 110 Conduct business competently in English
- Equivalent to CEFR: B2+/C1 upon completion of ELS Level 112

**Education option upon completion: Begin an undergraduate or graduate degree program.**

### ADVANCED

#### Upon completion of Advanced levels, students can:

- Level 109 Communicate effectively in most social situations.
  - Level 108 Understand and can use a wide range of idioms.
  - Level 107 Participate fully in most conversations.
- Equivalent to CEFR: B2 upon completion of ELS Level 109

**Education option upon completion: Enter a two-year college.**

### INTERMEDIATE

#### Upon completion of Intermediate levels, students can:

- Level 106 Communicate facts and opinions.
  - Level 105 Understand most questions and statements at normal speaking speed.
  - Level 104 Carry on conversations with native speakers
- Equivalent to CEFR: B1 upon completion of ELS Level 106

### BEGINNER

#### Upon completion of Beginner levels, students can:

- Level 103 Communicate at a basic level in everyday situations.
  - Level 102 Understand English when spoken slowly and clearly.
  - Level 101 Respond to simple questions and directions.
- Equivalent to CEFR: A2+ upon completion of ELS Level 103





## ELS Core Classes

### Structure and Speaking Practice (SSP)

SSP classes focus on speaking, listening and structure (grammar). Every student in Levels 101-109 takes SSP.

### Language Technology Center (LTC)

In the LTC, students study on computers at their own pace with the help of the LTC instructor. LTC supports what students are learning in other classes and can be especially helpful in improving listening, comprehension, grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation.

### Skills Enhancement

These classes focus on a variety of language skills and cover a range of topics to help students improve specific areas of language development. Examples of Skills Enhancement Classes include Pronunciation, Vocabulary Development, Idioms, Conversation and more.

### Language Studies (LS)

This class focuses on listening, speaking and critical thinking skills. Every student in Levels 110-112 takes LS.

### Reading and Writing (RW)

This class focuses on improving reading and writing All Intensive English students take two periods of Reading and Writing in the afternoon, Monday-Thursday.

### Sample Timetable

Example Timetable

<div>Time</div> <div>Programs</div>	Intensive 30Lessons/week	Semi-Intensive 20Lessons/week	American Explorer 15Lessons/week	
8:30 - 9:20 AM	<b>Mon-Fri</b> SSP, LTC & Skills Class	<b>Mon-Fri</b> SSP, LTC & Skills Class	<b>Mon-Fri</b>	
9:30 - 10:20 AM			SSP, LTC or Skills	<b>Mon-Fri</b> SSP, LTC or Skills Class
10:30 - 11:20 AM			Class	
11:30 AM - 12:20 PM				
12:20 -1:30 PM	Lunch			
1:30 - 2:35 PM	<b>Mon-Thu</b> Reading & Writing Class			
2:45 - 3:45 PM				

\* 1 Lesson = 50 minutes



## Programs - Intensive English Program [REG]

- 30Lessons/week (25 Hours/week)

Intensive English is our most comprehensive program, providing the highest level of proficiency for language learning. The curriculum is designed help students succeed by focusing on all elements of the language: listening, speaking, reading, writing, pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary. Most students taking this program study with a plan to go to community college or university after completing ELS.

**You must take this program to get the ELS level certificate required by the university.**

### Intensive English Program – Sample Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30am - 12:20pm	Structure and Speaking Practice OR Language Studies / Skills Enhancement / Language Technology Center				
12:20pm-1:30pm	Lunch				
1:30pm-3:45pm	Reading & Writing				

### Intensive English Program Sample Timetable – Each Level

Level Time	BEGINNER Lv.101 - 103	INTERMEDIATE Lv. 104 – 106	ADVANCED Lv. 107 - 109	MASTERS Lv. 110 - 112
8:30am-9:20am	Structure and Speaking Practice	Structure and Speaking Practice	Skills Enhancement*	Skills Enhancement*
9:30am-10:20am	Structure and Speaking Practice	Structure and Speaking Practice	Language Technology Center	Language Technology Center
10:30am-11:20am	Skills Enhancement*	Skills Enhancement*	Structure and Speaking Practice	Language Studies
11:30am-12:20pm	Language Technology Center	Language Technology Center	Structure and Speaking Practice	Language Studies
12:20pm-1:30pm	Lunch			
1:30pm-2:30pm	Reading & Writing	Reading & Writing	Reading & Writing	Reading & Writing
2:40pm-3:45pm	Reading & Writing	Reading & Writing	Reading & Writing	Reading & Writing

\*Exact courses offered at each Center may vary.



## Programs - Semi-Intensive English Program [SEM]

- 20Lessons/week (16.7 Hours/week)

The Semi-Intensive English program allows students to learn English and get a true cultural experience at the same time. These classes are typically scheduled during morning hours and focus on all aspects of language and communication learning, including listening, vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. The classes are structured to provide speaking practice and tailored for real-world applications to give you the confidence to use your learning in social settings and in interactions with other students.

### Semi-Intensive English Program Sample Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30am - 12:20pm	Structure and Speaking Practice OR Language Studies / Skills Enhancement / Language Technology Center				

### Semi-Intensive English Program Sample Timetable – Each Level

Level Time	BEGINNER Lv.101 - 103	INTERMEDIATE Lv. 104 – 106	ADVANCED Lv. 107 - 109	MASTERS Lv. 110 - 112
8:30am-9:20am	Structure and Speaking Practice	Structure and Speaking Practice	Skills Enhancement*	Skills Enhancement*
9:30am-10:20am	Structure and Speaking Practice	Structure and Speaking Practice	Language Technology Center	Language Technology Center
10:30am-11:20am	Skills Enhancement*	Skills Enhancement*	Structure and Speaking Practice	Language Studies
11:30am-12:20pm	Language Technology Center	Language Technology Center	Structure and Speaking Practice	Language Studies

\*Exact courses offered at each Center may vary.





## Programs - American Explorer Program (ACP)

\* This program is not available to F-1 students.

- 15Lessons/week (12.5 Hours/week)

Students who wish to study English while on vacation in the USA may do so in the ELS American Explorer program. This program features three morning lessons per day (Monday-Friday) for a total of 15 lessons per week. Afternoons are free for recreation and relaxation.

The American Explorer part-time program is cultural in nature and does not award certificates of language proficiency. Since the core class schedule may vary by Center and session, 15-hour students may have different programs at different Centers or in different sessions. The American Explorer program consists of 12 levels of instruction from Beginner to Masters, with four weeks of instruction per level.

### American Explorer Program Sample Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30am - 11:20pm	Structure and Speaking Practice OR Language Studies / Skills Enhancement / Language Technology Center				

### American Explorer Program Sample Timetable – Each Level

Level Time	BEGINNER Lv.101 - 103	INTERMEDIATE Lv. 104 – 106	ADVANCED Lv. 107 - 109	MASTERS Lv. 110 - 112
8:30am-9:20am	Structure and Speaking Practice	Skills Enhancement / LTC	Structure and Speaking Practice	Language Studies
9:30am-10:20am	Structure and Speaking Practice	Structure and Speaking Practice	Structure and Speaking Practice	Language Studies
10:30am-11:20am	Skills Enhancement / LTC	Structure and Speaking Practice	Skills Enhancement / LTC	Skills Enhancement Class or Language Technology Center



## Sample Activity Calendars

MARCH 3RD - MARCH 30TH						
CHICAGO						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>3 WELCOME TO CHICAGO!</b> 	<b>4 NO CLASSES NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION @ 9:30AM</b> 	<b>5 1ST DAY OF CLASSES BE HERE AT 8:00AM</b> * 	<b>6 ELS EVENT</b> FREE!  SNACKS AND GAMES IN SOCIAL HALL AT 3:45-4:45PM	<b>7 BONUS LAB</b> 4:00-5:00PM IN LTC 	<b>8 ELS SUGGESTS</b> FREE!  SPECIAL GRADUATION AND PIZZA PARTY IN SOCIAL HALL 12:30-1:30PM	<b>9 ELS SUGGESTS</b> FREE!  DOWNTOWN OAK PARK JAZZ THAW FESTIVAL SATURDAY AND SUNDAY MARCH 9TH-10TH
<b>10 RAMADHAN KAREEM</b> 	<b>11 NATIONAL NAPPING DAY</b>  WEAR PAJAMAS TO CLASS FOR A PRIZE!	<b>12 CONVERSATION CAFE</b>  7-8:30PM CALVARY MEMORIAL CHURCH IN OAK PARK	<b>13 CLASS PICTURE DAY!</b> 	<b>14 BONUS LAB</b> 4:00-5:00PM IN LTC 	<b>15 ELS EVENT</b> FREE!  ST. PATRICK'S DAY PHOTO BOOTH, MUSIC, AND SNACKS 12:30-1:30PM IN ROOM L130	<b>16 ELS EVENT</b> FREE!  CHICAGO ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE RIVER DYEING AT 10AM
<b>17 HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY</b> 	<b>18 WORD OF THE DAY! LEPRECHAUN</b>  A CHARACTER IN IRISH FOLKLORE, A SMALL FAIRY OR SPRITE WHO WEARS GREEN AND HAS A SLY SENSE OF HUMOR.	<b>19 CONVERSATION CAFE</b>  7-8:30PM CALVARY MEMORIAL CHURCH IN OAK PARK	<b>20 ICE CREAM SUNDAES 12:20-1PM IN THE DU UNDERGROUND</b> FREE! 	<b>21 BONUS LAB</b> 4:00-5:00PM IN LTC 	<b>22 HELLO SPRING</b> 	<b>23 ELS SUGGESTS</b> FREE!  MEN'S VOLLEYBALL AT IGINI SPORTS FORUM AT 1PM
<b>24 ELS SUGGESTS</b> FREE!  SEE BLITHE SPIRIT - A PLAY BY THE DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS LUND AUDITORIUM 3PM	<b>25 ELS EVENT</b> FREE!  COME SEE MARY IN THE ELS OFFICE IF YOU HAVE A MARCH BIRTHDAY	<b>26 BONUS LAB</b> *  4:00-5:00PM IN L130	<b>27 FINAL EXAMS</b>  GOOD LUCK!	<b>28 PLEASE NOTE! GRADUATION AND PIZZA PARTY!</b> 	<b>29 NO CLASSES</b> <b>Good Friday</b> 	<b>30 RELAX</b> 

\*CONVERSATION CAFE AT CALVARY MEMORIAL CHURCH  
OAK PARK WILL STILL BE MEETING ON THIS DAY

ELS.EDU

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## Session First Day / Orientation Day Sample Schedule

The orientation will be conducted face-to-face at the center.

Below is the orientation sample schedule. Depending on the school, the actual orientation may be conducted differently.

8:45 ~ 12:00	<b>New Student Arrival &amp; Orientation</b>
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## Minimum Age Requirements

- No ELS Housing: 16+
- Homestay, Homestays in the area: 18+
- Student Residence (off campus): 18+

\*Students aged 16 and 17 may be accepted in homestay at these locations upon approval by the Center Director, and depending on availability.

## Contact information of ELS Chicago

Dominican University

7900 West Division St, Lewis Hall River Forest, IL 60305 USA

Tel: 1 (773) 277-3799

E-mail: [chi@ELS.edu](mailto:chi@ELS.edu)