

Program Overview

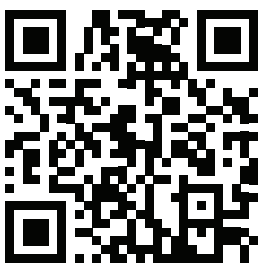
Our English language program helps learners with listening, speaking, reading and writing skills that they will need as they pursue further education, better jobs, and other opportunities. We empower our students to enjoy full lives in their new home country.

WHAT WE DO

Instruction is available for students who are learning to speak, read, and write English. Contact the Council Bluffs Adult Education Department for information regarding classes. Refer a friend or share this information with someone who is interested in attending ESL classes.

SUCCESS STORY

Kim Nguyen studied some English in her home country of Vietnam, but needed help with listening, pronunciation and writing. Since taking English language classes, she is now taking classes at Iowa Western to pursue her Licensed Practical Nurse diploma. See page 2 for Kim's full success story.



Scan this code to learn more about ESL at Iowa Western.

CONTACT US

Phone: 712-325-3266

ESL Class Schedule

Mon. – Thur. 9 a.m. – noon

Mon. & Wed. 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

LOCATION

Iowa Western Community College
2700 College Road | Kinney Hall
Council Bluffs, IA
51503

Contact Iowa Western today!

Instruction is available for students who are interested in learning how to speak, read, and write English.

Success Story

When first arriving in the US from Vietnam with her twin teenage daughters in 2019, Kim says she faced many difficulties: the language barrier, finding housing, finding work, figuring out how to accomplish daily routines, and learning American customs. Even the vegetables here were different than the ones she knew in Vietnam! It was overwhelming. She was helped a bit by her family members who already lived here, and eventually by her English teachers, Teresa Cooley-Daniel and Kay Burdwell.

Kim remembers the first day she arrived to live in the United States was new and very exciting! She arrived in Houston, Texas, and lived with her sister, having not seen her for more than 20 years. They were overjoyed to be together again. Her sister knew of her dear old friend she had also not seen for 20 years who lived only about 10 miles away in Houston and arranged a surprise reunion. Soon, it was time for her and her family to move to Council Bluffs, Iowa to live with her brother and sister-in-law. Once there, she enrolled in Adult Education English language classes at Iowa Western Community College.

They taught her such things as how to use a credit card, how to open a bank account or a credit card, and how healthcare works in the US. She was surprised by the cold weather in Iowa. She and her daughters had brought warm clothes with them, but they weren't nearly warm enough. Houston was not very cold, but still much colder than Vietnam. Iowa was a whole different story in the winter. Vietnam weather was never as cold as here! She gradually felt more at home. She even learned to create new dishes, using the vegetables she found here in the United States.

Kim says the second year was more difficult than the first, but the third year was better. IWCC helped her learn how to conduct necessary daily activities and gave her important information.

Kim's dream is to get a good career and help her family. She hopes to become an ultrasound technician. She has earned 24 credit hours at Iowa Western Community College toward her Associate of Science Degree (AAS) since finishing English language classes. She will soon transfer to the University of Nebraska at Omaha for 2 years to complete her Bachelor of Science degree. She has also been completing 10 hours of work-study for Phi Theta Kappa, the International Honor Society of the Two-Year College, each week.

Kim says new immigrant students must try to overcome the many difficulties at first, one at a time, and thereby overcome their fears. "If you just keep going, the fear will become less. However, if you don't push through the fears, they will become greater," Kim says. She still has worries about the academic demands and higher tuition found at university, but she thinks these are good problems to have. If Kim could travel back in time and meet herself on the day she arrived in the US, she would tell herself, "Be thorough and think critically about everything, you must plan in detail each step to achieve your final goal." Kim is an English language student success story that we are very proud of!

