Concept and Rationale
In October 2012 a group of stakeholders from across campus was convened to assess the feasibility of developing an English as a Second Language program on our campus. This group became the English Language Program (ELP) Advisory Group and has been meeting monthly for the past year to guide the development of the ELP on our campus. The group is comprised of 17 individuals from across campus including representatives from upper administration, Department of Humanities, WATR, Admission & Enrollment Services, Registrar’s Office, Cashier’s Office, University International Education Committee, Residence Life, Dining Services, and International Programs.

The English Language Program (ELP), to be launched at UW-Platteville in Fall 2014 (with a special pilot program to be offered to Brazilian students in Summer 2014), will assist the university in increasing its pool of degree-seeking international students, in meeting strategic recruitment goals for the institution, in generating revenue, and in internationalizing the campus. The ELP will offer three sessions during a regular academic year (i.e., fall, spring, and summer sessions). A fall or spring session lasts 16 weeks, and a summer session lasts 8-10 weeks, catering to students’ schedules.

The ELP is a self-supporting, cost-recovery program that will be administratively housed under the International Programs office in close collaboration with appropriate faculty and staff who will provide academic oversight of the English Language Program. Start-up funds for the ELP have been identified and allocated. The start-up funds began in FY13 and run through FY17 with carryover possible. Once the start-up funds are exhausted, the program is expected to be self-supported through program fees. A full-time ELP Coordinator will be hired to oversee the program. ELP instructors will be recruited externally.

Students Served
The ELP will primarily serve prospective international students who meet all admission requirements except for their English language proficiency to prepare them for academic success at UW-Platteville as well as improve their proficiency in English. Upon successful completion of the ELP, students will be admitted as full-time degree-seeking students at UW-Platteville.

In addition to providing services to academically bound international students, the program will also serve non-academically bound (non-degree seeking) students who are interested in improving their English language proficiency and/or understanding of the U.S. culture for professional and/or personal development. This population may include:

- Government-sponsored students from Brazil, Chile or other countries seeking short-term, intensive English programs;
- International students planning to become degree-seeking students at other area colleges without English language programs;
- Spouses of current UW-Platteville international students; and/or
- Other non-native English speakers in our community.
The enrollment goal of the ELP for Fall 2014 is twenty students with enrollment gradually increasing to approximately 100+ students over a number of years.

**Curriculum Overview**
The ELP will initially offer English as a Second Language (ESL) courses at three levels (Level III Intermediate, Level IV Advanced I, and Level V Advanced II/Bridging). ESL courses at Level III Intermediate and Level IV Advanced are designed to improve students’ general language proficiency for practical, social, academic, and intercultural needs. ESL courses at Level V Advanced II/Bridging focus on improving students’ academic language proficiency and preparing them for success in college-level courses (see Appendix for additional information).

Based upon research, comparative data, and consultation with others involved in starting ESL programs on college campuses, the Advisory Group determined that starting by offering intermediate and advanced levels only for the first two years of the program will allow us to develop, grow and sustain the program in an intentional and prudent manner.

**Conditional Admission Requirements**
During the 2014-2015 academic year, conditional admission will be open to prospective international students whose TOFEL scores fall within 45 and 61 (Internet based) or whose IELTS scores are either 4.5 or 5.0. To be granted conditional admission, applicants must meet all other admission requirements for a full-time degree-seeking student.

*Notes:*
1. UW-Platteville 2013-2014 Academic Year International Students Admission Requirements
   “Proficiency in English: 500 (paper based) or 61 (Internet based) minimum on TOEFL, or an IELTS score of at least 5.5.”
2. TOEFL: Test of English as Foreign Language developed and administered by ETS
3. IELTS: International English Language Testing System, an international test of English language proficiency

**Benefits to the Campus**
The ELP will not only assist the university in reaching enrollment goals and generating revenue, but also assist the university in internationalizing the campus by:
- enriching the campus culture,
- raising awareness of cultural and linguistic diversity, and
- providing other UW-Platteville students with a variety of cross-cultural learning opportunities.

For example:
- Other UW-Platteville students can serve as mentors and/or conversation partners for ELP students.
- Students enrolled in the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) program in the Department of Humanities can observe ELP classrooms, serve as conversation partners and/or tutors, and carry out a practicum project.
- Students studying in the Master of Science in Education/English Education (China) program can learn teaching techniques and strategies from ELP instructors through observing ELP classrooms.

In collaboration with other campus units, the ELP will contribute to the university’s strategic goals of internationalizing the campus.