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Benefits of POSTECH English Certificate Program

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All students in POSTECH have to complete the POSTECH English Certificate Program (ECP) to be qualified for graduation. Freshmen take placement tests at about the time of matriculation and they are assigned proper levels of English courses. [If] students enter level 4, [which] contains courses English 3 and 4, the program requires them to start with level 4 courses, then move to level 3, 2, and 1. [Although] most freshmen comply with the program without any criticism, there are naturally some people who raise an objection to the ECP.

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[However, there are some powerful benefits of the ECP as well as some facts for refutation.]

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[The most important and powerful benefit of the ECP is frequent contact with the English language.] There are four main parts of English ability: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The ECP provides continuous environment to develop these abilities. [For example, there are plentiful chances to converse with a professor or companions in English in the class, which improves listening and speaking. Students also can access abundant sources of listening and reading more easily. One of the most common assignments for the ECP courses is writing assignment, which includes from daily informal writing to academic formal writing. It is a stepping-stone for students who are going to present their research through global journals in the future. Language skills will deteriorate unless one practices untiringly. In this aspect, the ECP gives efficient encouragement to students.]

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[One of the main defects which opponents of the ECP point out is academic stress on

students. However, the ECP is already running in the way by which stress can be minimized.

It adopted the S/U system instead of GPA (the letter grade system), which means these courses do not count for credit toward a scholarship. To get S in the course, students just work faithfully and do their best rather than competing with companions and getting stress.

Some can say the ECP limits time to study other things. In contrast, the ECP can guarantee the least time students need to study English for their majors. Many major lectures, books, and treatises are in English, so English is necessary for students who major in natural science or engineering. The ECP is not a waste of time but a process of building a linguistic background.

There are many reasons people study English, and students in POSTECH have one more. The more active academic interchange with other countries, the more important English is. Since linguistic ability does not grow overnight, the ECP is very helpful to the students in POSTECH who will become global leaders. With a lesser load than other subjects, the ECP gives proper motivation and basis for future worldwide activities. Thus, the ECP is adequate to satisfy the English needs of Postechians.