

Chicago Center Profile



ELS Language Centers
Dominican University
7200 West Division Street
River Forest, Illinois 60305

* The fax number for students to receive messages at the ELS Center is 1(708) 488-5014.

Center Hours

8:00 am to 5:00 pm (Monday – Friday)
 Closed on weekends and holidays

Key Location Features

- Private University campus location
- Complete Prep Program for TOEFL® iBT location
- Business English Program location
- Executive Programs location
- Convenient train to downtown Chicago
- Free access to many campus recreational facilities
- Concurrent Enrollment available at DU for qualified students
- TOEFL® iBT, IELTS™, and TOEIC® testing center

Area Attractions

- River Forest's walking-distance shops and restaurants
- Chicago's Magnificent Mile, blues, jazz and comedy clubs, world-class museums and symphony and professional sports
- Lake Michigan shoreline and Navy Pier Complex

Climate

Chicago has warm summers (June, July and August) and cold winters (November through February). Students should bring appropriate clothing.

Average Temperatures (Celsius)

	Minimum	Maximum
Winter	-8	0
Spring	4	13
Summer	19	27
Autumn	8	16

Host University Information

Visit www.dom.edu to learn more about Dominican University and their degree programs. Also visit the ELS College directory www.collegedirectory.els.edu to learn about other local colleges & universities that accept ELS completion in place of the TOEFL®.

Surrounding Area Information

Average travel time (in minutes) from ELS Center:

Housing Options	Minutes	Method
Nearby Campus Dorm:	10	By foot
ELS River Forest	15 to 20	By foot
Apartments:		
Homestays:	20	By foot, bike or bus

Local Places

Airport:	30	By taxi
Bank:	20	By foot or bus
Downtown Chicago:	30	By car, bus or train
Post Office:	20	By foot
Restaurant(s):	20	By foot or bus
Shopping Mall:	30	By bus
Sports Center:	10	By foot
Supermarket:	20	By foot
Bus Stop/Subway:	5	By foot

Local Transportation

Bus and train service is good in Chicago. Students can take a nearby bus and train from River Forest to downtown Chicago for \$4.00. Trains run every 30 minutes.

Drivers License

F-1 students cannot obtain an Illinois Drivers License. Students can drive with a valid foreign license with an official translation in English.

Smoking Policy

Dominican and Concordia Universities are non-smoking campuses.

Housing Check-in and Departure

Students with confirmed ELS housing reservations should go directly to their assigned housing upon arrival (not to the ELS Center) on the Sunday before their course begins. Checkout is the Saturday after the program ends. Arrivals and departures on dates/times other than those listed require special approval.

Please see "Check-in" instructions in the following sections for exact arrival details and times.

HOUSING & ARRIVAL DETAILS - CHICAGO

Student Residence / Dorm

Concordia University – Gross Hall Corner of Augusta & Bonnie Brae

Concordia University's Gross Hall dorm, located across the street from the ELS Center, has shared bathrooms and a lounge. Concordia University dorm rooms are doubles with air-conditioning.

Meals Included: Includes \$330 declining balance meal card. Additional money can be added, if desired.

Age Minimum: 18+ years old

Laundry Facilities: Self-service machines are available in the same dormitory building for a small fee.

Security/Resident Assistant: A key card is required for entrance to the dorm. Each room has its own key. There is one resident assistant for each floor.

Check-In: 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm (Sunday) check-in

During standard check in hours, students with confirmed reservations should report to Gross Hall for dorm room check in. The Residence Assistant will provide keys to the room and ask for a key deposit. Students arriving later should call the Sunday arrival toll free number noted further below.

Damage/Key Deposit: \$50 key deposit

Checkout Time: 10:00 am (Saturday)

ELS River Forest Apartments

Located in a quiet, safe and upscale neighborhood, ELS River Forest Apartments offer a shared bedroom in a two-bed, one-bathroom luxury apartment. Each apartment has a fully-furnished kitchen, wireless Internet, local phone service, cable TV, and air conditioning. Linens are included. [Note: Singles may be available at an additional price.]

Meals Included: None

Age Minimum: 18+ years old

Laundry Facilities: Self-service machines are available in the same building for a small fee.

Security/Resident Assistant: Apartments have a secure locking system.

Check-In: 1:00 pm (Sunday) check-in

Report to 419 Thatcher Avenue, Apt. GA, River Forest, IL 60305 and ring the buzzer for the on-site manager. The phone numbers are 1-708-488-1416 and 1-630-399-2237. The on-site manager will assist you in checking into the apartment.

Damage/Key Deposit: \$200 damage deposit

Checkout Time: 12:00 noon (Saturday)

Homestays

Rooms: Single (1 person)

Meals Included: 16 per week (daily continental breakfasts/dinners with lunches added on weekends)

Age Minimum: 16+ years old

Flight Information: Homestay students should notify their Host Families or ELS of their arrival times so that families will know to be home when they arrive.

Transportation to ELS: Host family students are responsible for their personal transportation. Most students arrive at the campus by bus. Some families are close and provide bikes for students. We have a few families within walking distance of the campus.

Check-In: 8:00 am to 10:00 pm (Sunday) check-in

Students go directly to homestay address.

Checkout Time: 10:00 am (Saturday)

Airport Arrival Information

ELS Language Centers recommends that students choose the ELS Airport Pickup Service for arrivals (booked through ELS Central Admissions), however other transportation options are also available.

Area Airports: Chicago O'Hare International (ORD) or Midway (MDW)

ELS Airport Pickup Service Provider Information:

A-1 Limo Service

Tel: 1(630) 833-3788 toll free / Fax: 1(630) 833-3873

The driver will hold a sign with the student's name on it. Airport Pickup Meeting Locations are as follows (by arrival type):

International: Customs Exit

Domestic: Baggage Claim Area

Other Transportation Options From the Airport:

The Suburban Taxi service from O'Hare Int'l Airport to the campus or homestays will cost approximately \$25, with a travel time of 30 minutes, call 708-848-1000. City taxis will cost from \$50 to \$60.

Toll-free Emergency Phone Numbers

1(888) 475-3630 for Arrival Weekend emergencies. For other emergencies requiring immediate attention outside of business hours, call the ELS Help Line 1(800) 435-7357 (1-800-HELP-ELS).

Recommended Hotels

If hotel accommodations are needed before the housing check-in date, we recommend the following hotels. Advance reservations are recommended. Prices (10% tax included) are subject to change.

Carleton Hotel	\$120 - \$150 per night (single)
1110 Pleasant Street	Tel: 1(708) 848-5000
Oak Park, IL	

Write-Inn	\$100 - \$150 per night (single)
211 N. Oak Park Avenue	Tel: 1(708) 383-4800
Oak Park, IL	

Center Arrival Information

New Students should report to the ELS Chicago Center **between 8:00 am and 8:30 am on the first Monday** of their program for registration, the ELS placement test and orientation. New students need to bring the following items:

- ☐ Passport (plus I-94 card & I-20 form - if applicable)
- ☐ Funds to pay tuition and housing and other relevant fees (or receipt showing pre-payment)
- ☐ Proof of medical insurance (or funds to purchase ELS insurance)
- ☐ Materials contained in the acceptance package