The Centre for Applied English Studies (CAES) offers courses with the explicit aim of enhancing students’ academic and professional English communication skills. All HKU undergraduates are required to successfully complete 12 credits in English Language enhancement. This normally involves 6 credits in the Core University English (CUE) course as well as the compulsory 6 credits in an English-in-the-Discipline course. All courses use a mixed learning mode.

The Centre uses 120 hours of student learning activity (including both teacher-student contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) as the norm for a 6-credit course. The output requirements for different groups of courses vary according to the mix of learning modes employed. Courses are assessed either entirely by continuous assessment or with a combination of continuous assessment and formal examination. CAES courses are categorized as Language Enhancement Courses.

Each 6-credit course is normally around 120 learning hours, including about 36 teacher-student contact hours in a variety of modes such as lectures, seminars, small group tutorials, individual consultation sessions, as well as independent learning work. Courses may vary in the degree to which the formats listed above are utilized. The CUE course is assessed by a combination of 65% continuous assessment and 35% examination while all the English-in-the-Discipline courses are assessed entirely by continuous assessment. Assessable outputs include: essays, project reports, other genres of writing, portfolios, oral presentations, tutorial discussions, tests and related group and/or independent learning work. The expected output for a 6-credit course is normally around 4,000 to 6,000 words or its equivalent in oral performance or a similar amount of output in more than one modality.