Types of ESP

The major division of ESP is generally between that of EOP (English for Occupational Purposes) and EAP (English for Academic Purposes). Each of these major divisions can be composed of as many subdivisions as are necessary. It of course depends on the needs of the students.

1) EOP: generally focuses on speaking and listening as linguistic skills. EOP is often divided into English for Professional Purposes (EPP) and English for Vocational Purposes (EVP). The difference between these two is that the former is seen as being more complicated and involved than the latter. EPP may involve learning a large amount of specific content knowledge (reading) in addition to using that knowledge in the real world (speaking). EVP is seen as demanding more use and less specific content. Distinctions in EVP are also made between pre-service and in-service students on the basis of the level of specificity of the needs the students have and the knowledge of their own needs.

2) EAP: generally deals with students who are studying particular subjects in schools typically at the tertiary (university) level, but can also be developed for subject-based or content-based teaching at lower levels. EAP courses have often been thought to share some common themes are academic skills would appear to be founded on a common skill set regardless of the specific content area being studied. The general goals of EAP is to provide the students with academic skills which allow them to study more efficiently and to provide content knowledge in the process of developing those skills. The linguistic skills most often focused on in EAP are reading and writing.