

Teaching English as a Second Language

College of Arts & Sciences

The Department of Modern and Classical Languages, Literatures and Cultures offers a graduate program leading to the M.A. degree in Teaching English as a Second Language – MATESL (36 cr.). The general goal of graduate work in the program is to provide students with a quality teacher education program that will prepare candidates for a satisfying career in language teaching.

Admission Requirements

Applicants for admission must first be approved by the Graduate School. They are then reviewed by the Director of the program in the department of Modern and Classical Languages, Literatures and Cultures, who consults with the MATESL Program Faculty Committee before returning recommendations to the Graduate School.

An applicant may be provisionally admitted without meeting all of the minimum standards if other factors, including letters of recommendation, the writing samples, and the oral interviews, indicate an ability to perform satisfactorily in graduate-level work. Presentation of a minimum Graduate Record Examination score (GRE) and a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) does not, however, automatically guarantee admission to the program, as the final decision depends on an evaluation of all materials submitted and the Program Faculty's assessment of the applicant's potential for successful graduate study.

Other Specific Requirements

In addition to assuring that the applicant has met the admission requirements of the Graduate School, the director and the program faculty Committee carefully evaluates the following material:

- a minimum 2.75 overall undergraduate GPA, a minimum 3.0 GPA in the language-specific field, and a minimum 3.0 GPA in any previous graduate work;
- three letters of recommendation;
- personal statement of interest in language teaching
- an interview by the appropriate program faculty;
- demonstrated basic skills

Graduate school applications must be returned to the Graduate School Office.

Degree Requirements

All candidates are required to meet the following set of learning outcomes. Candidates must:

I. Language & Learning

1. demonstrate professional level knowledge of the English language, including English as a linguistic system and as a tool for social and cognitive functioning;
2. demonstrate knowledge of research in second language acquisition processes;
3. demonstrate knowledge of learning differences among students, including learning disabilities;
4. demonstrate the ability to inform teaching practices through the study of social learning and cognitive research and theories and the use of inquiry into specific teaching contexts.

II. Culture

1. demonstrate knowledge of the major research and theories related to the nature and role of culture in instruction and learning;
2. demonstrate knowledge of a specific cultural context for ESL/EFL teaching;
3. demonstrate skill in inquiring into cultural groups, processes, and identities to support language

development.

III. Planning, Implementing and Managing Instruction

1. demonstrate the ability to create lesson plans and effectively implement them according to current educational research, concepts and “best practices;”
2. demonstrate an understanding that teaching involves relationship building with learners;
3. demonstrate knowledge of curriculum design, standards-based curricula and materials and strategies and techniques for classroom implementation;
4. demonstrate the ability to use technology as an effective resource in the classroom;
5. demonstrate the ability to differentiate instruction for the diverse learning needs of ESL/EFL students;

IV. Assessment

1. demonstrate knowledge of various assessment instruments and issues as they affect ELLs;
2. demonstrate the ability to use standards-based assessment instruments to show language growth and inform instruction;
3. demonstrate the ability to inquire into students’ personal histories and linguistic, cultural and educational backgrounds in order to adapt instruction to learner needs.

V. Professionalism

1. demonstrate knowledge of the history, research, public policy and current practices in the field of ESL teaching and apply this knowledge to inform teaching and learning;
2. demonstrate the characteristics of a “reflective practitioner,” through questioning and inquiry into their own teaching practices and using professional development opportunities;
3. demonstrate the ability to build partnerships with colleagues and students’ families, serve as a community resource, and advocate for ELLs;
4. demonstrate the ability to adhere to ethical standards for Kentucky educators

For further information concerning the MATESL program, consult the Program Director.

The Portfolio

The successful submission of the TESL Professional Portfolio is the culminating requirement of the program. The portfolio has three core functions: 1) reflective tool for professional development; 2) advance an argument that you are a competent language teacher and have met the program TESL Standards; 3) document that you have met the requirements for the TESL MA Program.

TESL Knowledge Areas & Graduate Courses

TESL Knowledge Areas
Language (12 cr.)

TESL Curriculum

MCL 575: Introduction to Linguistics for Teachers (3cr.)

TSL 560: Literacy Development in the ESL Classroom (3 cr.)

MCL 665: Second Language Curriculum & Assessment (3 cr.)

TSL 675: English Grammar: Analysis & Pedagogy (3 cr.)

Learning (9 cr.)

MCL 517/LIN 517: Second Language Acquisition (3cr.)

MCL 690: Culture, Cognition and L2 Language Learning (3 cr.)
500/600 level course from Education (3 cr.)

Pedagogy (15 cr.)

MCL 510: L2 Teaching Methods: Young & Beg. Level Learners (3cr.)

MCL 610: Second Language Teaching Methods: 9-12, Adult & Advanced Students

TSL 697: ESL Teaching Internship (9 cr.)

Course Descriptions

TSL 515 ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONTENT CLASSROOM. (3)

This course is designed to engage class participants in the study of learning and teaching of ESL students in the PreK – 12 content classroom. The course is structured around two foundational knowledge bases for the field of ESL teaching: 1) the role of language and culture in school curriculum and classroom learning; 2) the challenges that content classes – math, science, and humanities – pose for English learners. The goal of the course is to prepare content teachers to effectively teach English learners both language and subject matter.

TSL 560 LITERACY DEVELOPMENT IN THE ESL CLASSROOM. (3)

This course is designed to introduce students to theory, research, and teaching applications of second language literacy development in the ESL classroom. This is a field-based course, and students will study current teaching methods of literacy instruction and apply those ideas with learners in an ESL setting. (Same as EDC 560.)

TSL 597 ESL TEACHING PRACTICUM. (3)

This course provides students with a supervised ESL teaching experience of 45 hours, and an additional 15 hours of course meetings with the supervisor to explore instructional strategies, classroom management issues and reflect upon their own development as teachers. The course is designed as the culmination of the TESL Graduate Certificate, and can be taken in the fall, spring or summer terms. ESL teaching placements must be approved by the course instructor. Prereq: Students must be enrolled in the TESL Graduate Certificate course of study.

TSL 675 ENGLISH GRAMMAR: ANALYSIS AND PEDAGOGY. (3)

This course is designed to deepen students' explicit understanding of English grammar, with particular attention paid to grammatical structures most challenging for English language learners. The course explores the development of learner language, with a primary focus on the development of English grammatical competence. Issues in the teaching of English grammar are studied and applied to ESL teaching techniques and curriculum.

TSL 697 ESL INTERNSHIP. (3-9)

This course provides TESL MA students with a supervised ESL teaching experience of 90 hours, and an additional 15 hours of course meetings with the supervisor to explore instructional strategies, classroom management issues and reflection upon their development as ESL teachers. The course is designed as the culmination of the TESL MA program, and can be taken as a variable credit course (3 – 9 credits) in the fall, spring or summer terms. In order to fulfill the program internship requirements, a total of 9 credits must be completed. Prereq: Student must be in good standing in the TESL MA program.