

Graduate

English — Teaching English as a Second Language

Degrees Available at SIUE

- Master of Arts in English, Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) Specialization

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

- Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL)

Program Format

The program can be completed through a combination of daytime, evening and online courses.

Teaching English as a Second Language at SIUE

A master of arts degree in teaching English as a second language (TESL) prepares graduates to teach and tutor students who are learning English as a second language, both in the United States and abroad. Students will gain a foundation in theories of linguistics, second language acquisition and pedagogy, as well as practical experience working with second-language learners. Throughout the practicum experience, students will have the opportunity to apply their skills and knowledge in local settings under the supervision of faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences.

At SIUE, the TESL curriculum helps students gain a specialized understanding of how languages and language learning works. Students will learn to construct a working philosophy of language learning and teaching, gain awareness of the role of cultural and social variables in language learning, and design, organize, conduct and assess ESL instructional programs.

Career Opportunities

TESL is a field that offers great opportunities for employment, career satisfaction and intercultural encounters. TESL teachers are in high demand domestically and worldwide. Many who engage in this career find their work challenging, but extraordinarily rewarding.

Admission Requirements

- Graduate School application and \$40 fee
- Submission of all postsecondary academic transcripts
- Successful completion of a bachelor's degree prior to enrollment
- Minimum GPA of 2.50
- International Applicants: Proof of English Proficiency, minimum requirements are TOEFL (79), IELTS (6.5) or equivalent
- Three letters of recommendation
- Statement of Purpose: A three- to five-page paper which explains how the applicant became interested in the field of TESL, what the applicant hopes to learn in the program and how that learning will help the applicant in a career.

SIUE

College of Arts and Sciences
Department of
English Language and Literature

Faculty

Catherine Seltzer
Graduate Program Director
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Seran Aktuna, PhD
1993, University of Pennsylvania
Specializations: Educational Linguistics, Sociolinguistics, Language Planning and Policy Making, TESOL Methodology

Joel Hardman, PhD
1994, University of Pennsylvania
Specializations: Language and Literacy Acquisition, Language Teaching Pedagogy, Sociolinguistics, Teacher Development, the Education of Language-Minority Children

Kristine Hildebrandt, PhD
2003, University of California Santa Barbara
Specializations: Linguistics, in particular Phonetics and Phonology, Typology, Language Contact, Language Documentation

Larry LaFond, PhD
2001, University of South Carolina
Specializations: Second Language Acquisition, Linguistic Theory, Discourse Analysis, Syntax

Faculty listing current as of June 2020



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE
GRADUATE SCHOOL

Admission Requirements, Cont.

Program application materials may be uploaded during the application process, but official transcripts must be sent directly from the school attended, and test scores must be verifiable with the appropriate testing service. Please contact the Graduate Admissions office with questions regarding the application submission process at graduateadmissions@siue.edu.

There is a requirement of two years of college-level coursework (or its equivalent) in modern or classical foreign language with at least a C average. These requirements may be satisfied during the course of the student's graduate studies.

Graduation Requirements

The mode of final examination is dependent on the culminating activity selected by the student. A student who elects the thesis option must successfully complete a one-hour oral examination based on the thesis. A student who elects to enroll in 595 must attain at least a B in that course and successfully complete an examination responding to questions submitted by an examining committee of TESL faculty.

Curriculum

The specialization in teaching English as a second language requires 30 hours of coursework. During a student's program, the student must complete three credits of TESL practicum (ENG 545), beginning in his or her first or second semester. To complete this specialization, the student, in consultation with the TESL advisor, may elect a thesis or take ENG 595. Enrolling in 595 is recommended for students with no previous or current TESL experience.

Students taking 595 to complete their exit requirements are required to complete four electives from the following list, and students electing the thesis option must complete three electives. For all students, at least two of the electives must be at the 500-level.

Required courses (15 hours)

ENG 400: Principles of Linguistics
ENG 416: Language and Society
ENG 468: Second Language Acquisition
ENG 542: Methods for Teaching English as a Second Language
ENG 545: TESL Practicum

Electives (9-12 hours)

ENG 403: History of the English Language
ENG 405: Pragmatics
ENG 408: Phonological Analysis
ENG 409: Syntactic Analysis
ENG 417: Language and Ethnicity
ENG 418: Language Endangerment and Death
ENG 470: Methods and Materials for K-12 ESL Teaching
ENG 472: Assessment and Testing in ESL
ENG 474: Bilingualism and Bilingual Education
ENG 540: Seminar in Second Language Acquisition
ENG 541: Graduate Research Methods
ENG 543: Grammar Pedagogy
ENG 544: Reading and Writing Pedagogy in TESL
ENG 597: Readings in English Studies

Final Course or Thesis (three to six hours)

ENG 595: Professional Development Seminar in TESL (3) or
ENG 599: Thesis (6).

Students who hold a valid teaching certificate may take a series of courses leading to Illinois and/or Missouri ESL teaching approval. These courses are ENG 400, 409, 416, 468, 470, 472, 476. Students interested in this specialization should contact the ESL approval advisor.

Contact Information

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