Teaching English as a Second Language at SIUE

A Master of Arts 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. The TESL curriculum helps students gain a specialized understanding of how languages and language learning works. And, throughout the practicum experience, students will have the opportunity to apply their skills and knowledge in local settings under the supervision of faculty.

Learning outcomes:
• Construct a working philosophy of language learning and teaching
• Gain awareness of the role of cultural and social variables in language learning
• Design, organize, conduct and assess ESL instructional programs

Degrees Available at SIUE
• Master of Arts in English, Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) Specialization

Combined Degree
• Accelerated Combined BA and MA 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.

What can I do with a degree in TESL?
TESL is a field that offers great opportunities for employment, career satisfaction and intercultural encounters. TESL teachers are in high demand domestically and worldwide, and 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.
• Accelerated Combined Degrees: Current SIUE undergraduate students may apply for the accelerated option to earn graduate-level credit for courses taken their senior year.
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.

Required Credit Hours/Tuition and Fees

• 30
• Visit siue.edu/graduate-tuition for detailed tuition information

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 the 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 three electives from the following list, and students electing the thesis option must complete two electives. For all students, at least two of the electives must be at the 500-level.

Required courses (18 hours):
• ENG 400: Principles of Linguistics
• ENG 416: Language and Society
• ENG 468: Second Language Acquisition
• ENG 541: Graduate Research Methods
• ENG 542: Methods for Teaching English as a Second Language
• ENG 545: TESL Practicum

Electives (6-9 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 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 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.

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• ENG 542: Methods for Teaching English as a Second Language
• ENG 545: TESL Practicum

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siue.edu/grad/tesl

Contact Information
Department of English Language and Literature
Phone: 618-650-5978 or 618-650-2061
Email: english@siue.edu

This information is concurrent with the 2022-2023 academic catalog. Courses are subject to change at any time.