

# Graduate Certificate: English as a Second Language

---

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Learn more about the graduate certificate in English as a Second Language.

All courses in this program are offered asynchronously, online. There are in-person fieldwork requirements for three of the courses.

## About the Certificate

The population of English learners has been increasing dramatically across Pennsylvania. This significant growth has led to an increased need for trained ESL teachers. While the ESL graduate certificate is required for individuals to lead ESL classes, it is also strongly recommended for all teachers as Pennsylvania classrooms become increasingly diverse.

In response to the significant need for well-trained ESL and mainstream teachers, Temple's ESL certificate program offers a set of four challenging and practical courses that prepare teachers to work effectively with ESL students. Through this program, students develop a foundation in English usage, linguistic awareness, and second language acquisition. They also learn to adapt and develop instructional materials for ESL students; administer and interpret a variety of formative and summative assessments; become knowledgeable about support services for English language learners; and develop cultural awareness and sensitivity. Because each course includes fieldwork, students have frequent opportunities to teach ESL students throughout the program, immediately applying newly learned concepts and skills. Courses are taught by highly-qualified Temple faculty with P-12 teaching experience to ensure students are guided by experts in the field and receive a high-quality education. ESL certificate course credits can also be applied toward Temple University's MEd in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL).

Most courses have a mandatory fieldwork component that affords students the opportunity to apply newly learned course concepts and skills to the classroom. Students typically serve as assistant teachers, but if they already have teaching positions with classrooms that include multilingual learners, they may complete the fieldwork in their own classrooms. Students who need help finding a fieldwork site receive assistance from their course instructor or from the Office of Field Placement and Professional Experiences.

The ESL graduate certificate can currently be added to any valid Pennsylvania Instructional I or II teaching certificate. However, to obtain a position as an ESL teacher in a public school, individuals must be certified in Early Childhood Education, Middle Grades English, or Secondary English. To add this credential, students in Middle Grades or Secondary content areas should take the *Praxis*® English Language Arts: Content Knowledge (5038).

**Time Limit for Certificate Completion:** 4 years

**Campus Location:** Main

**Full-Time/Part-Time Status:** The graduate certificate can be completed on a part-time basis. NOTE: International students may not be eligible to apply for a student visa based on admission to the certificate program. Please contact the Office of Enrollment Management for more information.

## Admission Requirements and Deadlines

### Application Deadline:

Applications are accepted for the Fall, Spring and Summer terms and are reviewed on a rolling basis.

Prospective students should hold an Instructional I or II certificate that is valid in Pennsylvania. Alternatively, students may be accepted if they are matriculated in a certification program at Temple University:

- Undergraduates currently matriculated in a Temple teacher certification program are eligible for the certificate program after achieving candidacy with a minimum GPA of 3.0.
- Graduate students with good academic standing while enrolled in a teacher certification program are also eligible for the certificate program.

Prospective students not currently matriculated in a Temple University teacher certification program must *APPLY ONLINE to this certificate program*.

### Letters of Reference:

*Number Required:* 2

*From Whom:* Letters of recommendation should be obtained to provide insight regarding the applicant's academic competence. References from college/university faculty are recommended.

**Bachelor's Degree in Discipline/Related Discipline:** A bachelor's degree is required. A minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 is expected.

**Transcripts:** Official undergraduate and graduate transcripts from all accredited institutions attended and/or from which credit was earned must be submitted.

International applicants must also submit an official document, including a course-by-course evaluation conducted by a NACES-accredited organization, that validates completion and conferral of a degree, diploma and/or certificate. While not required, international applicants are encouraged to submit transcript(s) to World Education Services (WES) for evaluation.

**Statement of Goals:** In 500-1,000 words, write a personal statement indicating your personal and professional interests, plans and objectives within the field of disability studies.

**Standardized Test Scores:**

Applicants who earned their baccalaureate degree from an institution where the language of instruction was other than English, with the exception of those who subsequently earned a master's degree at a U.S. institution, must report scores for a standardized test of English that meet these minimums:

- TOEFL iBT: 79
- IELTS Academic: 6.5
- PTE Academic: 53

**Resume:** Current resume required.

**Other Requirements:**

1. Official undergraduate and graduate transcripts from all accredited institutions attended and/or from which credit was earned must be submitted.
2. A copy of a valid Pennsylvania Instructional I or II Teaching Certification or evidence of enrollment in a certification program must be submitted.

## Certificate Requirements

*Number of Credits Required to Complete the Certificate: 12*

*Required Courses:*

Code	Title	Credit Hours
TESL 5613	Multilingual Students' Literacy Development	3
TESL 5616	Designing Assessment and Curriculum for Multilingual Students	3
TESL 5621	Contexts for Teaching and Learning Language	3
TESL 5631	Foundations of Language Teaching: Meeting the Needs of English Language Learners	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>12</b>

**GPA Required to be Awarded the Certificate:** 3.0 minimum

## Contacts

### Certificate Program Web Address:

<https://www.temple.edu/academics/degree-programs/english-as-a-second-language-certificate-graduate-ed-ensl-grad>

### Department Information:

Dept. of Teaching and Learning  
College of Education and Human Development  
1301 Cecil B. Moore Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19122-6091  
[educate@temple.edu](mailto:educate@temple.edu)  
215-204-0999

### Submission Address for Application Materials:

<https://apply.temple.edu/CEHD>

### Department Contacts:

*Admissions:*

Office of Enrollment Management  
[educate@temple.edu](mailto:educate@temple.edu)  
215-204-0999

*Graduate Advising:*

College of Education and Human Development

gradcehd@temple.edu

*ESL Certificate Program Coordinator:*

Dr. Jill M. Swavely

jswavely@temple.edu

215-204-6120