

Master of Arts (MA)

The MA TESOL program is designed to train professionals to teach people who are learning to speak English as another language. The program attracts both domestic students and international students from many countries; it emphasizes the practical application of theory to the classroom. MA in TESOL candidates deepen their understanding of linguistics, first and second language acquisition, and literacy acquisition in a second or additional language as they engage in teaching and research. Over the course of their degree, candidates design a program of language instruction for their particular setting and learn to revise, adapt and assess this program.

Becoming Career Ready...

- / Acquire basic knowledge of linguistics with emphasis on English structure, its usage(s), and role(s) in the society
- / Design a program of language instruction for students' own particular setting and learn to revise, adapt and assess the program as they progress in their studies
- / Apply theory to practice, taking a hands-on approach to the development of curricula and assessment
- / Engage in a practicum teaching experience
- / Receive professional attention from faculty with expertise in the field of TESOL and linguistics, and guidance for and preparation with the job search process

Career Planning

As an internationally, nationally, and regionally recognized program of excellence, TESOL prepares teachers for the K-12, adult, college or university setting for teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. Graduates will work with children in pre-school through high school, in adult education programs with refugees and immigrants, or in college and university programs. The workplace may be within the United States or overseas.

Admission Requirements

In addition to the criteria established for general admission to graduate studies, applicants must have the following:

- / An undergraduate GPA of 2.5 on a 4 point scale

Why should I study TESOL at Southeast?

Southeast offers the opportunity to work with a diverse student body and experienced faculty members and the flexibility of online classes. Candidates in this program live and teach in locations across the US as well as in other countries around the world. Graduates of the program have gone on to pursue doctorates in linguistics, English, language and literacy, and to teach in wide variety of settings including: universities in Japan and Saudi Arabia, K-12 settings in the US and Italy, private language schools in Ukraine and China.

Graduate and Employment Opportunities of Recent Graduates

- ESL Instructor
- International Educator at Southeast Health
- International Program Coordinator at Arizona State University Southeast Missouri State University, Stephen F. Austin State University, Kansas State University, etc.
- English Language Instructors in Seoul National University, Korea and Taihab University, Saudi Arabia
- Executive Manager, Future Horizons Institute, Saudi Arabia

Graduates have successfully pursued Ph.D. programs

- Southern Illinois University in Curriculum and Instruction program with a focus on Language, Literacy, and Culture (TESOL) and Learning Systems Design and Technology
- Kansas State University in Curriculum and Instruction program
- University of Memphis in Applied Linguistics program

Student Organizations: Student membership in the Southeast TESOL Club, MIDTESOL and the International TESOL Organization are encouraged.

International Cooperation: For the purpose of facilitating a collaborative English teaching program, Southeast Missouri State University has Articulation Agreements with Sichuan Normal University (China) and Vinnitsia State Pedagogical University (Ukraine), as well as a Memorandum of Understanding with Moscow City Teachers' Training University. International Graduate students are eligible for a scholarship.

Teaching Assistantships: Domestic and International students are eligible for competitive teaching assistantship to teach beginning composition courses and/or tutor for the Writing Center. Teaching assistants in MA TESOL might be assigned to teach intensive English courses to international students. Assistantships carry a stipend and a tuition waiver.

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This is a guide based on the 2019-2020 Graduate Bulletin and is subject to change. The time it takes to earn a degree will vary based on factors such as dual enrollment, remediation, and summer enrollment. Students meet with an academic advisor each semester and use Degree Works to monitor their progress.

CURRICULUM CHECKLIST**TESOL – 33 Hours Required****Core requirements:**

- EN686 Sociolinguistics (3)
- TL525 Theories of ESL/EFL Learning (3)
- TL530 Practicum in TESOL (3)
- TL585 Methods and Curriculum Design for ESL/EFL (3)
- TL601 Research Methods in TESOL (3)
- TL620 Approaches to the Teaching of Grammar (3)
- TL625 Materials Development & Assessment Tools for TESOL (3)
- TL630 Special Problems in TESOL (3)

Choose 3 hours:

- TL648 Foundations in Linguistics (3)
- UI501 Principles of Language (3)

Choose 6 Hours from the following:*

- EN606 Topics, Issues and Trends in English (3)
- TL650 Strategies and Techniques for Teaching Academic Language Skills to English Language Learners (3)
- TL652 Computer-Assisted-Language Learning (3)
- XXxxx Appropriate course in field of interest, chosen with advisor

*The elective hours may not be confined to the courses listed above. Students will be advised to select courses that are appropriate to their field of interest. These fields may include composition, literature, education, foreign languages, etc.

Recommended sequence of required coursework

The first year: TL525, TL648/UI501, TL585, TL601

The second year: TL620, TL630, TL530, TL625, EN686

Summer classes are available. Students are encouraged to work with their advisor to design an initial study plan that is tailored to their specific needs based on their previous experience.

Degree Requirements: The TESOL program requires practical experience before completion of the program.

Candidates meet the 36-hour requirement through course work and complete one of the following capstone options:

1. A non-thesis graduate paper and comprehensive exam;
2. A portfolio and comprehensive exam;
3. A thesis and oral defense.