Purpose of Program

The MA-TESL is a specialized professional degree that enhances a student's current qualifications and prepares them for advanced careers in the field of English language teaching. Students will learn methods, techniques and strategies to help them design and deliver effective programs and lessons for students of all ages, from early childhood through adulthood.

With this degree, students have the opportunity to teach English as a Second Language (ESL) to multilingual students in the U.S., or can go abroad to teach English as a Foreign Language (EFL). A distinctive emphasis of the program is its holistic view of the English language as a component of a student’s bi- or multi-lingualism. Dynamic, hands-on courses explore how humans learn second languages, the social and political implications of English in a globalizing world, and best practices for an approach to language teaching that values linguistic and cultural diversity.

Program Options

Two programs of study options allow students to tailor the degree to meet their specific career goals:

- An electives option provides a strong focus on educational practice through courses covering a wide range of teaching methods.
- A thesis option emphasizes research and/or preparation for advanced study at the doctoral level.

Completion of 36 semester credit hours is required (including a minimum 21 semester credit hours of ESL courses and 9 hours of Bicultural-Bilingual Studies courses).

Career Opportunities

The MA-TESL is widely recognized as an advanced professional qualification in the field of English language teaching. Graduates of the program become teachers/instructors, curriculum developers and program coordinators in diverse settings such as elementary, middle and high schools (with teacher certification), universities and community colleges in the U.S. and abroad, government/military schools, school districts and regional service centers, private international language schools, community-based language programs for immigrants and refugees, corporate training/consulting, and non-profit organizations.

After teaching abroad, I knew I needed to further my studies to stay competitive in the job market. Balancing theory and practice, the program helped me refine my EFL teaching experience. Whether I return to teaching or continue my studies, I know that I will have the education and skills I need for success.

— Aurora Aguirre, MA-TESL student
Admission Requirements

- Hold a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university
- Minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 in the last 60 hours of coursework
- International students must have a minimum Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of 550 (paper) or 79 (Internet)
- Proficiency or experience learning, using, studying or speaking a language other than English
- Be in good academic standing at the last institution attended

**Students who do not meet the minimum admission requirements should contact the program’s Student Development Specialist and consult the Graduate School Catalog for more information, special, or conditional admissions.

Financial Aid and Scholarships

To apply, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Assistance (FAFSA)
- [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsas.ed.gov)

Graduate assistantship positions available within the college (average of 19 hours per week)

Additional graduate student scholarship information:
- [graduateschool.utsa.edu/funding](http://graduateschool.utsa.edu/funding)
- [utsa.edu/scholarships](http://utsa.edu/scholarships)
- [education.utsa.edu/current_students/scholarships](http://education.utsa.edu/current_students/scholarships)