Purpose of Program

The TESL-Certification (TESL-C) program allows students to simultaneously complete their master’s degree in Teaching English as a Second Language and earn their Texas’ Early Childhood through Sixth Grade Generalist Teaching Certification credential.

English language learners (ELLs) are amongst the fastest-growing group in U.S. schools, and ELLs in Texas are becoming increasingly diverse, coming from a wide variety of cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Schools need teachers who are trained to work with ELLs, who understand how the process of acquiring English as second language can be fostered, and who are able to help students succeed across content areas.

A distinctive emphasis of the program is its holistic view of English language acquisition as a component of a student’s bilingual/multilingual development. Dynamic and hands-on courses explore how humans learn additional languages, strategies, techniques, and best practices for teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) students that values their linguistic and cultural diversity.

Program Options

The TESL-C program consists of 36 credit hours and additional learning modules, as well as a supervised field experience. The program is designed to be completed at your own pace; students generally take between one to three courses per semester, with evening classes at the UTSA Main and Downtown Campuses, and options for summer classes. The main areas of the program are:

- ESL Teaching Internship
- Teaching Methods for ESL Students
- Assessment for ESL Students
- Literacy Development for ESL Students
- Foundations in Second Language Acquisition
- Linguistics for ESL Teachers
- Sociolinguistics and Language Education

Career Opportunities

Graduates successfully completing the state administered examinations may be recommended for certification as EC-6 ESL Generalists through the Texas Education Agency (TEA). This teacher certification allows graduates to work as grades K-6 classroom teachers in public elementary schools throughout the state of Texas. Additionally, many districts need ESL specialists, and often ESL teachers work in conjunction with dual language programs, newcomer centers for refugee and immigrant children, and with students who have transitioned from bilingual programs.
**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

**How to Apply**

Apply through the UTSA Graduate School

graduate.schul.ut.s.a.edu

Send all USPS mail (transcripts, etc.) to:

The University of Texas at San Antonio
Attn: The Graduate School
One UTSA Circle
San Antonio, TX 78249

Send electronic transcripts to:

graduateadmissions@utsa.edu

**Contact Information**

**College of Education and Human Development**

education.ut.s.a.edu
education@utsa.edu
210.458.4370

**Graduate School**

graduate.schul.ut.s.a.edu
graduateadmissions@utsa.edu
210.458.4331

**Department of Bicultural-Bilingual Studies**

education.ut.s.a.edu/bicultural-bilingual_studies/
210.458.6619

**Financial Aid**

utsa.edu/financialaid
210.458.8000 (general line)
210.458.7169 (appointments)

**Financial Aid and Scholarships**

To apply, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Assistance (FAFSA)

fa.s.a.ed.gov

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

Additional graduate student scholarship information:

graduate.schul.ut.s.a.edu/funding
utsa.edu/scholarships
education.ut.s.a.edu/current_students/scholarships