The University of Texas at San Antonio

Master of Arts in Teaching English as a Second Language (MA-TESL)

EC-6 ESL/Generalist Teacher Certification Program (TESL-C)

Overview:

- The graduate-level EC-6 ESL/Generalist Teacher Certification Program (TESL-C) is a 36 semester-hour (non-thesis), field-based program intended for individuals who wish to obtain a Texas teacher certification as part of their Master's degree.

Admission Deadlines:

- Admission to the TESL-C track is a rolling admission (Fall, Spring, or Summer).

Admission Requirements for TESL-C

Admission to TESL-C requires the following:

- A Bachelor's Degree from an accredited institution.

- Full and clear admission into the MA-TESL degree program in the Department of Bicultural Bilingual Studies.
  - A GPA of 3.0 or better in the last 60 semester hours completed is required for 'clear' admission into the graduate program. Students admitted on 'probation' (2.7-2.99 GPA) will not be eligible to participate in the TESL-C.

- Evidence of a clear criminal background check. This is a state requirement.

- Evidence of ability in public speaking and critical thinking. This is a state requirement for all teacher certification candidates. Transcripts will be evaluated to determine if applicants meet these requirements through their previous coursework.

- Passing scores from the Core Subjects EC-6 Exam.
  - **TExES Information**
    - Texas law requires every person seeking educator certification to perform satisfactorily on comprehensive examinations. These examinations ensure that each educator has the necessary content and professional knowledge to perform satisfactorily in Texas public schools. Texas Examinations of Educator Standards (TExES) were developed for this purpose.

  - Contact department for information regarding taking this test if English is not your first language or you received your degree outside of the U.S.
• Completed application form.

• Ability to complete the 30 hours of basic field observation required by the state indicated by your signed Statement of Agreement to Complete Field Observations and Clinical Teaching form.

• Ability to complete the full 12 weeks of clinical/student teaching as required by the state for certification indicated by your signed Statement of Agreement to Complete Field Observations and Clinical Teaching form.

• Sign Memorandum of Understanding.

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Step-by-Step Guide

Pre-Admission Requirements:
1. Start taking core coursework:
   - ESL 5003 Linguistics for Second Language & Bilingual Specialists
   - ESL 5013 Foundations of Second Language Acquisition
   - ESL 5053 Approaches to Second Language Instruction
   - ESL 5063 Language & Content-Area Instruction

2. Provide evidence of a clear and current Criminal Background Check.
   a. This information can be obtained from the San Antonio Police Department by visiting: http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/administration/crime_records/pages/applicantfingerprintservices.htm

3. Take the Core Subjects EC-6 Exam as the PACT (Pre-Admission Content Test) and provide proof of score.
   a. Information can be found on the ETS Website: http://cms.texas-ets.org/epp/epppact/#Who_can_take_PACT

4. Evidence of ability in public speaking and critical thinking. This is a state requirement for all teacher certification candidates. Transcripts will be evaluated to determine if applicants meet these requirements through their previous coursework.

5. Sign Memorandum of Understanding

6. Sign Statement of Agreement to Complete Field Observations and Clinical Teaching

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After Admission TESL-C Requirements:
1. Complete and document 30 hours of field observation.
2. Complete ATE online training modules (more information below).
3. Take and pass other exams:
   a. TExES EC-12 ESL Supplemental and;
   b. TExES EC-12 PPR (Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities Exam)
4. Satisfactorily complete all remaining graduate courses and requirements
(see advisor).
5. Take either ESL 6943/6 (Clinical Teaching) during the last semester OR;
6. For those doing the year-long internship, enroll in 6943/6 during the last fall and spring semesters.

Recommended Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First 12 credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESL 5003 Linguistics for Second Language &amp; Bilingual Specialists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESL 5013 Foundations of Second Language Acquisition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESL 5053 Approaches to Second Language Instruction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESL 5063 Language &amp; Content-area Instruction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apply for Admission to the TESL-C Track</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take the Core Subjects EC-6 Exam (i.e., PACT) as an entrance exam.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Middle 12 credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BBL 5123 Sociolinguistics and Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBL 5053 Assessment in Bilingual and Sec Lang Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESL 5033 Second Language Reading &amp; Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose 1 course from Classroom Practice block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete 30 hours of Field Observation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take the EC-12 ESL Supplemental Exam and PPR Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete ATE online training modules</td>
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<tr>
<th>Last 12 credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BBL 6063 Research Methods in Bilingual &amp; Second Language Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESL 6943/6 Student teaching/Internship in ESL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose 1 course from Classroom Practice block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take end-of-program Comprehensive Exams*</td>
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* Comprehensive Exams for the MA in TESL are taken upon completion of 30 hours of graduate coursework. Check with your advisor for more information.

Course Load and Field Observation Hours:

- Once admitted, candidates must take a minimum of 3 hours of coursework each semester. (Clinical teaching/Internship semester(s) requires 6 hours of enrollment)
- During the long (fall or spring) semester, students must complete the 30-hour Field Observation Requirement. Students will meet for a 3-hour block once a week for 10 weeks in an assigned field classroom. This is a state requirement for certification and cannot be waived for any reason. (See Statement of Agreement to Complete Field Observations and Clinical Teaching form)
  - Observation Hours will be completed during ESL 5063.
  - Past graduate candidates have used vacation time, personal days, or
made arrangements with employers to complete the required fieldwork.
  
  o  All placements will be made by the COEHD Coordinator of Field Placements.

**ATE Online Training Modules:**

During your graduate coursework, you will be required to complete training modules. To access the modules you must enroll in ATE (Academy of Teacher Education) eCommunity of Practice (eCofP):

1. Follow this link: [https://ecofp.ate.utsa.edu/](https://ecofp.ate.utsa.edu/)
2. Create an account
3. Go to UTSA Courses/Programs-> Bilingual EC-6/ESL EC-6 ->Enroll Me
4. See TESL-C Coordinator or FAQ Page for more information.

**Final Semester (Clinical Teaching or Internship):**

There are two options: Clinical Teaching or Internship

1. **Clinical Teaching:** Student/clinical teaching will occur in the last semester of your program upon completion of all of your coursework for the MA degree. It requires a full-time commitment all day, everyday, for one semester of supervised practicum in a public school. This is a state requirement and cannot be waived for any reason.

2. **Internship (Teacher of Record):** In lieu of clinical teaching, candidates may complete a year-long internship, which is salaried by the public school district. Requirements include:
   
   a. Candidate secures job offer in writing (we recommend attending job-fairs, professional networking events, etc.)
   
   b. Candidate completes all required internship forms with teacher certification office advisor for approval.
   
   c. This option has outside requirements. Please be sure to contact the TESL-C Coordinator to see if you qualify.

*Before doing the Clinical Teaching or Internship, students must:

1. Have completed all MA-TESL graduate coursework (some exceptions may apply)
2. Have completed all ATE online training modules
3. Have passing scores on all TExES exams required for TESL-C Track:
a. Core Subjects EC-6 Exam;
b. TExES EC-12 ESL Supplement Exam;
c. EC-12 PPR (Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities Exam).
4. Have a minimum of 3.0 GPA in MA-TESL graduate coursework
5. Documented completion of 30-hours Field Observation
6. Get approval from certification advisor & TESL-C coordinator before participation.

Eligibility Requirements: Recommendation for Teacher Certification

After admission to TESL-C, teacher candidates must ensure that they meet University and State requirements to satisfy eligibility for teacher certification. In order to be recommended for the standard teacher certification through TESL-C, the State of Texas requires successful completion of a teacher certification program along with the completion of all MA-TESL-C degree requirements.

This includes:

1. Successful completion all courses and comprehensive exams that are required for the MA-TESL-C degree with the required 3.0 GPA.
2. Documented participation in at least 30-hours of field-based classroom observation prior to internship or clinical teaching.
3. Passing scores on the appropriate TExES exams.
4. Complete (1) a full-time, non-paid, 12 week or longer semester of clinical teaching during your last semester, or (2) complete approved, year-long, full-time internship in which the candidate is hired as a teacher of record by a Texas public school district.