

**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) Concentration**

**Overview of the EC-6 ESL Generalist Graduate Teacher Certification**

**Program Requirements** The graduate 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.

The TESL-C degree program provides candidates with the opportunity to acquire a Master of Arts (MA) degree in Teaching English as a Second Language, and initial certification in early childhood through 6<sup>th</sup> grade general education.

**Admission deadlines:** Admission to the TESL-C 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. (Note: students who earned a degree outside of the U.S. must show evidence of English language proficiency. This is a state requirement. Contact the department for further details regarding this requirement.)
- 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 TExES exam for EC-6 Generalist exam. Information on how to sign up for the exam can be found at: [http://cms.texas-ets.org/epp/eppact/#Who\\_can\\_take\\_PACT](http://cms.texas-ets.org/epp/eppact/#Who_can_take_PACT)

**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.

- For International Applicants: Passing score on the TOEFL Exam: 550 paper/80 internet **OR** Minimum IELTS Score (for International Applicants): 6.5  
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.
- Ability to complete the full 12 weeks of clinical teaching as required by the state for certification indicated your signed **Statement of Agreement to Complete Preservice Field Observations** form.
- Sign **Memorandum of Understanding** (attached).

## Course Load and Field Placements

Once admitted, candidates must take a minimum of 3 hours of course work each semester. (Clinical teaching semester requires 6 hours of enrollment).

Once admitted to the teacher preparation program, you must also complete a **30 hour field placement in a local school during the long (fall or spring) semesters**. Each teacher candidate 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. All placements will be made by the COEHD Coordinator of Field Placements. **Each student must show availability to complete this requirement by signing the Statement of Agreement to Complete Preservice Field Observations form that accompanies the TESL-C Application form.**

Past graduate candidates have used vacation time, personal days, or made other arrangements with employers to complete the required field work. This field experience meets the state's minimum 30-hour requirement for fieldwork in teacher certification programs.

## Final Program Semester (clinical teaching or internship)

There are two options: Clinical teaching or Internship

- Clinical Teaching.** Student/clinical teaching will occur in the last semester of your program upon completion of all of your coursework for the degree, and requires a full time commitment all day, every day, for one semester of supervised practicum in a public school. This is a state requirement and cannot be waived for any reason.
- 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 for Internship include:
  - Candidate secures job offer in writing (we recommend attending job-fairs, professional networking, etc.)
  - Have completed all graduate education courses (some exceptions may apply)
  - Passing scores on all TExES exams

- TExES EC-6 Generalist
- TExES EC-6 ESL content (supplemental)
- EC-12 PPR (Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities Exam)
- Have a minimum 3.0 GPA in MA-TESL graduate coursework
- Documented completion of 30 hrs. of field observation
- Candidate completes all required internship forms with teacher certification office advisor for approval.
- Get approval from certification advisor & TESL-C coordinator before participating in Internship

### Recommended schedule

<b>First 12 credits</b>
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
Apply for Admission to the Teacher Preparation Program
Take TExES EC-6 Generalist exam
<b>Middle 12 credits</b>
BBL 5123 Sociolinguistics and Education
BBL 5053 Assessment in Bilingual and Sec Lang Studies
ESL 5033 Second Language Reading & Writing
Choose 1 course from <b>Classroom Practice</b> block
Complete field based observation
Complete training modules
<b>Last 12 credits</b>
BBL 6063 Research Methods in Bilingual & Second Language Studies
ESL 6943/6 Clinical teaching/Internship in ESL
Choose 1 course from <b>Classroom Practice</b> block

\*Comprehensive exams for the MA in TESL upon completion of 30 hours of graduate coursework. Check with your Academic Advisor for information regarding comprehensive exams.

### 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 teacher certification through TESL-C, the State of Texas requires successful completion of a teacher certification program along with the completion of all MA in TESL degree requirements.

This includes:

1. Successfully complete all courses and comprehensive exams that are required for the Master of Arts in 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. UTSA requires its teacher candidates to participate in a test review session and to take a practice test exam before they are approved to take the state required exam. Scores on practice tests do not determine eligibility to take the state exams.
4. Complete (1) a full time, non-paid, 12 week or longer semester of clinical teaching experience at the end of the program, or (2) complete approved year-long full time internship in which candidate is hired as teacher of record by a Texas public school district.

## **Application Procedures for UTSA Graduate Teacher Certification Program**

Students who are interested in obtaining a master's degree with initial teacher certification must complete two separate application processes. Students must meet all the requirements and turn in all application materials for both the graduate degree and the teacher certification.

Students who are interested in beginning TESL-C will need to be accepted to their UTSA graduate program, the MA-TESL, first and then turn in all application materials for the TESL-C to the Bicultural-Bilingual Studies Department.

*Important: Applications to graduate school and to the teacher certification program are two separate applications. Admission to the graduate school does not automatically enroll a student in the teacher certification program.*

### **1. Apply to Graduate School**

- a. Online application available at <http://www.graduateschool.utsa.edu>.
- b. Choose the correct degree for your program: MA-TESL
- c. Students must have a 3.0 GPA in the last 60 graded semester hours for clear admission.
- d. Submit official copies of ALL transcripts from every college and university you have attended. Make sure they are sent to the UTSA Graduate School.

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

Students interested in applying to the TESL-C must apply and be accepted to the graduate program prior to applying to the teacher preparation program. Students should reserve themselves ample time to request transcripts from other colleges and universities and track their application materials to ensure they are received by the Graduate School. Official decisions by the Graduate School take about 2-3 weeks. During peak application periods, decisions may take longer. Ask that your transcripts be sent electronically to The University of Texas at San Antonio.

## 2. Complete the TESL-C Application

All teaching certification application materials will be turned in to the Bicultural Bilingual Studies Student Development Specialist and includes:

- a. TESL-C Application form with specified education and related experience
- b. Copies of acceptance to graduate school which includes evidence of 3.0 GPA and clear admission (no conditions)
- c. Signed “Statement of Agreement to Complete Pre-service Field Observations and Clinical Teaching” form
- d. Evidence of clear and current criminal background check. This can be obtained from the San Antonio Police Department by visiting:  
<http://www.sanantonio.gov/sapd/REPORTS.asp#background?res=168o&ver=true>
- e. Submit EC-6 Generalist TExES EC-6 Generalist exam scores. Information on how to sign up for the exam can be found at: [http://cms.texas-ets.org/epp/eppact/#Who\\_can\\_take\\_PACT](http://cms.texas-ets.org/epp/eppact/#Who_can_take_PACT)
- f. Signed Texas Teachers’ Code of Ethics

All of the TESL-C Application Materials are due to the Student Development Specialist. Incomplete applications will NOT be reviewed. Applications may be mailed to the following address or hand-delivered to the department. Email applications will not be accepted.

Student Development Specialist  
Department of Bilingual Bicultural Studies  
College of Education of Human Development  
University of Texas at San Antonio  
One UTSA Circle  
San Antonio, TX 78249

## TESL-C Application Form - Page 1

(Please Print Clearly)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Banner ID \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (home/cell) \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Education:** List all school attended. Attach an unofficial copy of transcripts from all schools.

College/University	Major	Graduation Date	Degree

**Teaching experience:** List any teaching experience you have (school, after school, daycare, volunteer, etc.)

### **SIGNATURE REQUIRED FOR APPLICATION:**

I understand that I must abide by all state and program requirements in order to complete the UTSA Graduate Teacher Certification Program. I understand that if my GPA falls below a 3.0 at any time during the program, I will be ineligible to continue in the certification program. I also understand that if for any reason I am removed from the program (if I become ineligible or choose to leave the program), I must complete all conditions of admission as stated on my Dean's condition sheet, including but not limited to, background coursework.

I also certify that I am not concurrently enrolled in another teacher certification program.

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## TESL-C Application Form - Page 2

(Please Print Clearly)

### *Statement of Agreement to Complete Preservice Field Observations and Clinical Teaching Semester*

#### **SIGNATURE REQUIRED FOR APPLICATION:**

#### **30-hour Field Experience Requirement**

The TESL-C requires an initial 30 hours of field observations in classrooms in the public schools during the first fall semester after acceptance into the Graduate Teacher Certification Program. This is a state requirement. This experience requires TESL-C candidates to spend time during the day in a public school classroom at least one day a week for a three hour minimum block of time for the duration of the semester. The UTSA Coordinator of Field Placements will assign schools and classrooms. Schedules for classroom observations will be determined by the TESL-C student in dialogue with the assigned classroom teacher and the Coordinator. Candidates must have time available during the day on a weekly basis to meet this program requirement.

My signature below indicates that I understand the requirement for 30 hours of field observations in the TESL-C during my program, and attests to the fact that I will be able to meet this requirement.

\_\_\_\_\_

Printed name

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

#### **12-Week Clinical Teaching Requirement**

The TESL-C also requires a full, non-paid, 12 week clinical teaching experience in classrooms in the public schools during the last semester of your program. This is a state requirement. after acceptance into the Graduate Teacher Certification Program. This experience requires TESL-C candidates to spend full days from the start of the school day until the end of the school day every day for 12 weeks. Placement for the clinical teaching experience is coordinated by the Director of Clinical Teaching. Candidates must have time available during the day on a weekly basis for 12 consecutive weeks according to the UTSA schedule for this experience to meet this program requirement.

My signature below indicates that I understand the requirement for 12 full weeks of clinical teaching in the TESL-C during the last semester of my program, and attests to the fact that I will be able to meet this requirement.

\_\_\_\_\_

Printed name

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature



## TESL-C Application Form - Page 3

(Please Print Clearly)

Please read the Texas Teachers' Code of Ethics found at:

<http://education.utsa.edu/images/uploads/Texas%20Teacher%20Code%20of%20Ethics.pdf>

Following the reading of the Code of Ethics, please read this affirmation and sign that you have read the Code and wish to comply with its requirements. This is required by the state for all teacher candidate applications.

**SIGNATURE REQUIRED FOR APPLICATION:**

### **State Board for Educator Certification Texas Educators' Code of Ethics Texas Administrative Code 247.2**

I affirm that I will comply with standard practices and ethical conduct toward students, professional colleagues, school officials, parents, and members of the community and shall safeguard academic freedom, as set forth by the Texas Administrative Code #247.2. As a Texas educator, in maintaining the dignity of the profession, I shall respect and obey the law, demonstrate personal integrity, and exemplify honesty. In exemplifying ethical relations with colleagues, I shall extend just and equitable treatment to all members of the profession. In accepting a position of public trust, I shall measure success by the progress of each student toward realization of his or her potential as an effective citizen. In fulfilling responsibilities in the community, I shall cooperate with parents and others to improve the public schools of the community.

I hereby affirm that I have read and thoroughly understand the Texas Educators' Code of Ethics TAC 247.2, and shall abide by all enforceable standards of this rule.

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Educator Candidate's Signature

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Date

**Department of Bilingual-Bicultural Studies**

**Memorandum of Intent to Apply for Admission to the TESL-C or the BITE-C**

This letter and my signature indicate that I am intending to apply for the teacher preparation program in TESL-C or BITE-C (circle one). I understand that:

- I will meet with my program advisor every semester to ensure that I following the correct of program of study for teacher certification.
- I can take coursework for the degree before applying for admission to the teacher preparation program;
- I must take and pass the PACT test in my certification area as a requirement for admission to the teacher preparation program.
- I must apply to the teacher preparation program upon completion of entry requirements.
- I understand that courses taken outside the approved program of study will not be counted toward teacher certification and that required courses may not be substituted.
- I can continue course work in the degree and complete my Master's degree even if I am not admitted to the teacher preparation program for whatever reason.

My signature attests to the fact that I have read and understand the above information related to the teacher preparation program for TESL-C and BITE-C.

\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Master of Arts in Teaching English as a Second Language (MA-TESL) EC-6 ESL Generalist Teacher Certification Program (TESL-C) Concentration

## Step-by-Step Guide

### Pre-Certification Admission

- Start taking core “Pre-Cert” coursework (see recommended sequence)

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

- Begin taking training modules (you must obtain 3 CEUs (Continuing Education Units/Credits) for each Module category)
- Enroll in ATE (Academy of Teacher Education) eCommunity of Practice (eCofP) (required)  
ATE eCommunity of Practice: Go to this website, create an account, and enroll in eCofP:  
<https://moodle.ate.utsa.edu/course/view.php?id=386>
- Provide evidence of a clear and current Criminal Background Check  
This can be obtained from the San Antonio Police Department by visiting:  
<http://www.sanantonio.gov/sapd/REPORTS.asp#background?res=1680&ver=true>
- Take “Entrance” TExES content exam. See: [http://cms.texas-ets.org/epp/eppact/#Who\\_can\\_take\\_PACT](http://cms.texas-ets.org/epp/eppact/#Who_can_take_PACT)
- Sign Memorandum of Understanding (attached).

### Once Admitted to Certification Track

1. Complete 30 hour Field Experience
2. Satisfactorily complete all remaining graduate coursework and requirements
3. Complete “Practice” tests (Specify what tests are ‘practice’)
4. During last semester, take ESL 6943/6 (Clinical Teaching) or
5. For those completing an internship enroll in ESL 6943/6 (Internship) in both Fall and Spring
6. Complete Student/Clinical Teaching or Internship requirements
7. Take all other tests (Specify) during Student/Clinical Teaching or Internship
  - TExES EC-6 ESL content (supplemental)
  - TExES EC-12 PPR (Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities Exam)

More detailed information regarding Teacher Certification at the University of Texas at San Antonio can be found by accessing the “Teacher Preparation Program Handbook”:

<http://education.utsa.edu/images/uploads/FAL12%20Teacher%20Education%20Program%20Handbook%202013.pdf>