

Master of Arts in Teaching English as a Second Language: EC-6 ESL Generalist Certification (TESL-C)

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, and who understand how the process of acquiring English as second language can be fostered, while at the same time helping 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 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



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

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

How to Apply

Apply through the UTSA Graduate School

📧 graduateschool.utsa.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



Contact Information

College of Education and Human Development

📧 education.utsa.edu
✉ education@utsa.edu
☎ 210.458.4370

Graduate School

📧 graduateschool.utsa.edu
✉ graduatestudies@utsa.edu
☎ 210.458.4330

Department of Bicultural-Bilingual Studies

📧 education.utsa.edu/bicultural-bilingual_studies/
☎ 210.458.2721

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)

📧 fafsa.ed.gov

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

Additional graduate student scholarship information:

📧 graduateschool.utsa.edu/funding
📧 utsa.edu/scholarships
📧 education.utsa.edu/current_students/scholarships

