

English

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Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Certificate Program

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Graduate Study is offered in the Department of English leading to the Master of Arts degree. Teaching assistantships are available.

Admission Criteria

Prerequisites for admission into the graduate program include all the general requirements of the Office of the Graduate School and an undergraduate English degree (or 18 hours of undergraduate English courses beyond freshman composition, with a B average or higher). Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit GRE scores. International students must obtain a TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score of 625 PBT (263 CBT or 106 iBT) or an IELTS (International English Language Testing Systems) score of 8 or better. An applicant must submit all materials by March 15 to be considered for an assistantship.

Provisional Admission

If a student does not fully meet the admission requirements of the program, it may be possible for that student to be admitted provisionally. If provisionally admitted, the student must attain at least a 3.00 GPA on the first 9 hours of graduate courses at Mississippi State University (courses with an S grade, transfer credits, or credits earned while in Unclassified status cannot be used to satisfy this requirement). If a 3.00 GPA is not attained, the student may be dismissed from the graduate program.

Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Certificate Program

The Certificate in the Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) is designed to provide students with the theoretical and practical knowledge needed to begin a career in English language teaching. Students who earn the certificate will be prepared to teach English as a foreign language in countries outside the United States and English as a second language in positions inside the United States that do not require a teacher's license.

Admission to the Certificate Program

The graduate program of the Certificate in TESOL is open to graduate students in good standing who are currently enrolled at the University in any major. Degree-seeking students will be awarded their certificates at the time that they complete their degrees.

Additionally, the program is open to members of the following groups who hold a B.A./B.S. or higher degree.

- Current employees of Mississippi State University
- People currently employed as educators in Mississippi at any level
- People who have earned a degree at MSU within the previous five years

Unsatisfactory Performance

Unsatisfactory performance in the graduate program in English may be defined as any of the following: failure to maintain a B average in attempted graduate courses after admission to the program, a grade of U or F in any one course, failure of the comprehensive examination, unsatisfactory evaluation of a thesis, or failure of a required component of the program of study. Any one of these or a combination of these may constitute the basis for review for possible dismissal. The graduate coordinator will review the record along with the student's graduate committee and take a final course of action which will be immediate dismissal or the establishment of a probationary period in which corrective action must take place. Appeal of dismissal can be made by submitting a written appeal statement to the department head. If the dismissal is upheld by the department head upon the student's appeal, the student can then submit a written appeal to the dean of the College of Arts & Sciences.

Programs of Study

Students may pursue an emphasis in Creative Writing or a minor in Teaching of English as a Second Language. External minors are also available.

Master of Arts in English - Thesis

Graduate coursework		21
EN 8103	Graduate Research in English	3
EN 8000	Thesis Research/ Thesis in English	6
Total Hours		30

- A thesis is required.
- All students must display a reading knowledge of a foreign language, usually by having completed four undergraduate semesters in that language with a B average or higher.
- All students, regardless of their fields of study, must take a comprehensive examination in British and American literature. The exam must be taken at the beginning of the student's fourth full semester.

Master of Arts in English - Non-Thesis

Graduate coursework		30
EN 8103	Graduate Research in English	3
Total Hours		33

- All students must display a reading knowledge of a foreign language, usually by having completed four undergraduate semesters in that language with a B average or higher.
- All students, regardless of their fields of study, must take a comprehensive examination in British and American literature. The exam must be taken at the beginning of the student's fourth full semester.

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Theoretical Background

EN 6403	Introduction to Linguistics	3
EN 6463	Studies in Second Language Acquisition	3
EN 6443	English Syntax	3

Language Teaching Methodology

Select two of the following:		6
EN 6433	Approaches to TESOL	
EN 6453	Methods in TESOL	
EN 6493	TESOL Practicum	

Total Hours		15
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The program requires 15 credit hours (5 courses) in linguistics and English language teaching methods that introduce students to basic methods of linguistic analysis and principles of communicative language teaching.

Non-degree seeking students will be awarded their certificates immediately upon completing the certificate requirements.