



# TESOL GRADUATE CERTIFICATE



## Why the TESOL Graduate Certificate?

As the demand for fluent speakers of English grows in national and international educational settings, the need for trained English teachers also grows. The TESOL Graduate Certificate provides the foundation needed by teachers working in second language environments.

## Why the TESOL Graduate Certificate at BGSU?

BGSU's TESOL certificate is designed to offer both current and future teachers the technical information about linguistics, language pedagogy and the structure of English they need to work in second language settings. Classes are offered two at a time so students can complete the certificate in a single year if they like or spread the courses out over two years.

## Learning outcomes

Graduates of the TESOL graduate certificate program are able to:

- Analyze the syntax, phonology, and morphology of the English language to demonstrate a clear understanding of how language works.
- Compare and contrast English with different languages in order to understand which aspects of English will be challenging for English language learners.
- Examine how Second Language Acquisition theories and research inform pedagogical practices.
- Design and create teaching materials for English language learners in a variety of settings.
- Integrate knowledge about theories with reflective teaching practices.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact **Kimberly Spallinger**, Associate Chair and Graduate Coordinator, College of Arts & Sciences, Department of English at [spallkk@bgsu.edu](mailto:spallkk@bgsu.edu) or 419-372-8145

**Jeanne R. Berry**, Graduate Secretary at [jberry@bgsu.edu](mailto:jberry@bgsu.edu) or 419-372-6864

For questions about Professional Pathways, contact Graduate Admissions: [gradinfo@bgsu.edu](mailto:gradinfo@bgsu.edu) | 419-372-2791 | [www.bgsu.edu/graduate](http://www.bgsu.edu/graduate)

## Program strengths and uniqueness

- The program provides both pedagogical and technical training for students to better prepare them for teaching English to speakers of other languages.
- Students enrolled in the program are able to observe and interact with ESOL faculty at BGSU while taking courses to obtain insights from professionals in the field.
- The program is designed either as a stand-alone certification or as a complement to graduate degrees in English, Education, Spanish, German, French, MACIE, business, social work and related fields.

## Professional opportunities

Students enrolled in the program may have experiential learning opportunities during the courses. In addition, students are invited to serve as group leaders for the Cross-Cultural Conversation Connection, a program that develops cultural understanding in today's global community by connecting people from different cultures through conversation.

This set of courses serves as excellent preparation for those who wish to teach English overseas or for those wishing to pursue further studies in linguistics.



*"The Graduate Certificate in TESOL from BGSU sharpened the focus of my career and opened doors for me to teach in multiple new settings, including positions in the United States and abroad, at all levels ranging from elementary school to university classes. I have also maintained relationships with the excellent TESOL faculty, who were and continue to be professional and generous with their guidance."*

— **Andre Swartley '12**  
Transcultural Experience Coordinator,  
ESL Instructor, Hesston College

## Admission requirements

Admission to the TESOL graduate certificate is contingent on the completion of a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and a cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 2.75 on a 4-point scale. Applicants are required to submit scanned copies of official or unofficial transcripts from all institutions attended. Upon admission, final official or notarized copies of transcripts from all institutions where degrees were earned and diplomas from international institutions must be submitted.

Applicants must also submit the following materials:

- Three Letters of Recommendation from instructors who have taught you within the past three years, from employers, or from other individuals qualified to evaluate your potential for success in a graduate studies program.
- A Statement of Purpose that explains your academic preparation for the program, your purpose for enrolling in it, and your professional goals relevant to the program (roughly 2 pages, double-spaced).

In addition, applicants must demonstrate sufficient command of spoken and written English to complete the coursework. Applicants for whom English is a second language can demonstrate English proficiency by way of an interview with the ESOL Program Director as applicable.

International applicants are also required to submit scores from the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), the Pearson Test of English Academic (PTEA), or the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Successful completion of ELS 112 will also be accepted for this requirement.

## Cost of tuition

Please refer to [www.bgsu.edu/offices/bursar](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/bursar) for current information on tuition and fees.

## How to apply

Visit the BGSU Graduate College website at [www.bgsu.edu/graduate/admissions](http://www.bgsu.edu/graduate/admissions).

**Fall Application Deadline:** Applications and supporting materials should be received at least one month before the start of classes.

## Curriculum

A total of 12 credit hours of coursework at the graduate level are required.

- LING 5100: Methods of TESOL (3)
- LING 5170: Applied Syntax (3)
- LING 5180: Applied Phonology (3)
- LING 6150: Modern English Linguistics (3)