Program Overview

The Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction: English as a Second Language concentration prepares students to teach English language learners in a variety of settings, including U.S. schools. All courses are offered online and allow students to participate at any time of day.

The program caters to professionals with a wide range of roles, including both new and experienced teachers, administrators, policymakers and community workers.

Graduate students will gain strategies for developing ESL skills across reading, writing, and listening, and for involving community and families as partners. They will also leave the program with a historical perspective of English learners in the U.S. and context of past and current policy towards ESL.

The program teaches educators specific skills for assessing English learner proficiency and content area knowledge, knowledge of various program models, and a stronger foundation in supporting ESL students’ language acquisition.

All program faculty have worked with English learner students, have a good mix of elementary and secondary level focus and field tested research strategies and are advocates for ESL students.

While the program is an excellent choice for teachers seeking to improve their preparation to work with English learners, and includes coursework supporting the Arizona ESL endorsement for certified teachers, it does not lead to teacher certification. There is no requirement that students entering the program hold a teaching certificate or seek to obtain one.

Non-Arizona residents, please refer to the ASU Online State Authorization Information page for additional information.

Contact Information

Office of Student Services – Graduate Programs

For admissions information, please contact graduate-inquiry@asu.edu. Current students, please contact Christopher Morris, Academic Success Specialist, at Christopher.E.Morris@asu.edu.

Quick Facts

**Campus Location:** Online
**Number of Credits:** 30 Credit Hours
**Start Terms:** Fall Session A and B, Spring Session A and B, Summer Session A (see Academic Calendar for Session dates)
**Time to Completion:** 5 Semesters (Fall, Spring, Summer)
**Application Deadlines:** [http://education.asu.edu/application-deadlines](http://education.asu.edu/application-deadlines)
Application Requirements & How to Apply

Graduate Admissions Application Requirements

- Earned a bachelor’s degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution in the U.S. or the equivalent of a U.S. bachelor’s degree from an international institution that is officially recognized by that country
- Must have maintained a “B” (3.00 on a 4.00 scale) grade point average (GPA) in the last 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of undergraduate coursework
- Proof of English proficiency – International students only
  - If you are from a country whose native language is not English (regardless of where you may now reside), you must provide proof of English proficiency. For more information including additional requirements for international students, please visit the ASU Graduate Admissions website.
  - Applicants to Non-Certification Masters, Graduate Certificates, and Doctoral Programs:
    - Must meet the English Proficiency score established by ASU Graduate Education

Items Needed to Apply to the Program

- Items that will be uploaded into the online application:
  - **Personal Statement:** Responses to short-answer questions provide the admissions committee with information regarding your personal or professional goals and how they align with the MA in Curriculum and Instruction (English as a Second Language). The admissions committee pays particular attention to the quality of writing and ideas expressed in these responses as well as evaluating the relevance of goals to the aims of the program. Please respond to three of the four questions below. Responses should be limited to 150-200 words per question. The statement should be prepared in an MS Word (.doc), Rich Text (.rtf), Portable Document Format (.pdf), or Text (.txt) file format.
    - Describe one or more personal or professional goals that motivate you to apply for this degree. How will completion of the MA in Curriculum and Instruction (English as a Second Language) program help you fulfill these goals?
    - Describe a quality that you believe is critical to working with an English language learner and at least one situation where you have demonstrated this quality.
    - Describe your experience working with and supporting English language learners.
    - Briefly discuss why you are interested in pursuing a graduate degree at this time. What steps have you taken (or will you take) to ensure that you will be successful in the program?
  - **3 professional recommenders** (names, emails, and institution/company) who will submit electronic letters of recommendation. One of these should be from your current supervising administrator, if you are working in a K-12 environment. The others should be from educators who know of your professional capabilities and accomplishments. These people will be asked to comment on your leadership, professionalism, flexibility, and other professional qualities that indicate you are a suitable candidate for graduate study.
  - **Resume** that includes relevant personal, professional, educational, and community activities (one – two pages). The resume should be prepared in an MS Word (.doc), Rich Text (.rtf), Portable Document Format (.pdf), or Text (.txt) file format.

- Items that need to be mailed to Graduate Admissions Services:
  - **Official transcripts** from every college and university from which you have earned a Bachelor’s degree or higher
  - **Proof of English proficiency** – International students only

Complete and submit the Graduate Admission online application

- Review the application deadlines prior to applying: [http://education.asu.edu/application-deadlines](http://education.asu.edu/application-deadlines)
- Start the online application at this website: [www.asu.edu/gradapp](http://www.asu.edu/gradapp)
- Select the degree: English as a Second Language (MA)
- Select the appropriate term for Planned Semester and Year of Enrollment
- For Location, select ASU Online
MA in Curriculum and Instruction (English as a Second Language)

- Upload required items listed above
- Submit the application and pay the appropriate application fee
- Send the remaining items to Graduate Admissions

Requirements and Program of Study

**Required Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COE 501</td>
<td>Introduction to Research and Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLE 511</td>
<td>Foundations of Language Minority Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLE 520</td>
<td>ESL for Children</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLE 522</td>
<td>Literacy/Biliteracy Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLE 529</td>
<td>Assessment and Evaluation of ELL Students</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLE 535</td>
<td>Sociolinguistic Issues in Language Minority Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLE 537</td>
<td>Language Structure and Acquisition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLE 561</td>
<td>School, community, family culture, parental involvement</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLE 580</td>
<td>Practicum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLE 597</td>
<td>Capstone</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Total for Program 30*

Curriculum and tuition for all programs subject to change based on Arizona Board of Regents and Arizona Department of Education updates.

To review course descriptions please visit the ASU Catalog: [http://asu.edu/catalog](http://asu.edu/catalog).

**Culminating Experience**

For the culminating experience, students enroll in BLE 597: Capstone, a 3-credit course, during Session B in the final semester. The course must be taken as the last course in the program and may be taken concurrently with one other class. The capstone course will be a reflective, experience-based integration of theory and practice and serve as a culminating experience for the program. Students are responsible for maintaining copies of the textbooks from the program to use as reference material and readings in the Capstone course.

**Additional Resources**

- Application Deadlines: [http://education.asu.edu/application-deadlines](http://education.asu.edu/application-deadlines)
- How to Apply: [http://education.asu.edu/graduate-programs-how-to-apply](http://education.asu.edu/graduate-programs-how-to-apply)
- Faculty: [http://education.asu.edu/faculty](http://education.asu.edu/faculty)
- ASU Graduate Education Policies: [https://graduate.asu.edu/policies-procedures](https://graduate.asu.edu/policies-procedures)
- Tuition and Fees: [https://students.asu.edu/tuitionandfees](https://students.asu.edu/tuitionandfees)

**Frequently Asked Questions**

Do I have to take the classes in any particular order?

The course sequence is based on the session in which you start the program. Upon admission you will receive a list of the courses and the order in which you will take them to meet the program requirements. Some program courses are only offered in the summer; therefore, the course sequence will require
summer courses. If you take courses out of sequence, your time to degree completion or financial aid eligibility may be affected as not all courses are offered every session.

What does the BLE 580 practicum look like?
The BLE 580 Practicum provides students an opportunity to apply theoretical and practical information from the program coursework in a real world setting. The practicum provides you with experiences for applying best practices for working with English language learners in a variety of settings. The practicum experience encourages and supports ASU students as they continue to grow and evolve as qualified professionals. Students complete 45 hours of approved activities under the guidance of an ASU instructor. If you are pursuing the ESL Endorsement from the Arizona Department of Education, the BLE 580 course will fulfill the practicum requirements for the endorsement.

Students are required to identify a setting where they can complete the practicum hours. Students arrange their own placements so they can best meet their personal and professional goals. The primary criteria that should be used to select a practicum site is that you be able to work with one or more individuals who are English language learners. The practicum site can be, but does not have to be, a traditional classroom setting; you may complete the hours by working in a before/after school program, tutoring ELLs in a school, parks and rec program, or private company/organization, volunteering to work with ELLs at a community center, volunteering at a bilingual story time at a local library, volunteering with students in a private language school, and more. Students pursuing the ESL Endorsement from the Arizona Department of Education should complete the practicum hours in a school setting. ASU students are expected to complete practicum requirements in a geographic area appropriate for their needs.

For the purposes of the practicum course, you will submit a contract to the course instructor that specifies the setting(s) in which the practicum will take place, the name of the person who will supervise you at the site, the anticipated dates and times in which you will complete the hours, the anticipated list of activities to be completed, and the focus of the project you will complete.

Additional information about the practicum will be provided in the online course materials.

When can I begin this program?
Each academic semester at ASU (Fall, Spring, Summer) has three sessions: Session A, Session B, and Session C. Session A and Session B are each 7.5 weeks, and Session C is 15 weeks. Students in the ESL program can begin the program at the start of either Session A (during Fall, Spring, or Summer) or at the start of Session B (during Fall or Spring). To be eligible for financial aid, a student must enroll in at least 5 credits in a given semester. Students starting an online program in Session B of any academic semester will take one 3-credit program-related course during the semester. The following tuition options are available for students starting the program in Session B of any semester:

Option 1: Pay tuition and fees for one 3-credit program-related course in Session B and become financial aid eligible in Session A of the following semester, OR

Option 2: In addition to one 3-credit program-related course in Session B, register to take another ASU course (2 or more credits) that will not count toward your degree. We recommend that you register for TWC 598: Writing for Educators. Apply for financial aid for both courses.

If you are accepted to start the program in Session B of Fall or Spring and decide to defer enrollment until the next semester for financial aid or other reasons, the university will assess a $30 fee. If you decide to defer prior to being accepted, we can defer your application to the next semester and the university will not assess a fee.

What do I need to get the ESL or BLE endorsement?
The ESL endorsement is offered through the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), the requirements can be found here: [http://www.ade.az.gov/certification/requirements/Endorsements](http://www.ade.az.gov/certification/requirements/Endorsements)
The courses in our program lead to the ESL endorsement. If a student is interested in the BLE endorsement, he or she will need to prove their proficiency of a spoken language other than English or sign language. Please keep in mind that students who do not have two years of full-time verifiable teaching experience in an ESL or BLE classroom will take BLE 580 (Practicum) as part of their program and this course will meet the ADE requirement. ADE also requires the completion of a second language learning experience by one of the methods indicated on the ESL Endorsement check sheet. Please note that the ADE language requirement is not met by courses completed as part of the program. Students are responsible for fully understanding ESL and BLE Endorsement requirements and for individually applying for the endorsement with the ADE. ASU does not assist with the endorsement application process.

The table below indicates the alignment between courses offered and the ESL endorsement requirements. To earn an endorsement, a student must already be a certified elementary or secondary teacher.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Requirements met</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BLE 511</td>
<td>Foundations of Instruction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLE 520</td>
<td>ESL Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLE 522</td>
<td>Teaching reading/writing to limited-English-proficient students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLE 529</td>
<td>Assessment of limited-English-Proficient Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLE 535</td>
<td>Linguistics/Sociolinguistics/SLA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLE 537</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLE 561</td>
<td>School, community, family culture, parental involvement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Non-Arizona students interested in applying for an endorsement or other qualification to an existing teacher certification should contact their state’s Board/Department of Education for information about using coursework from Arizona State University.