Program Overview

The Graduate Certificate in English as a Second Language 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.

This 18-credit hour certificate program consists of 6 classes. The graduate certificate can be completed within a two-year period while concurrently pursuing an online graduate degree or as a stand-alone certificate. A Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction: English as a Second Language is also available.

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 gradenrollment@asuonline.asu.edu. Current students, please contact your assigned academic advisor:

- Student Last Name A-L: Stacey Till, Academic Success Specialist, at Stacey.Till@asu.edu
- Student Last Name M-Z: Christopher Morris, Academic Success Specialist, Christopher.E.Morris@asu.edu

Quick Facts

- **Campus Location:** Online
- **Number of Credits:** 18 Credit Hours
- **Start Terms:** Fall Session A and B, Spring Session A and B, Summer Session A (see Academic Calendar for Session dates: https://students.asu.edu/academic-calendar)
- **Class Fee:** $100 per course (in addition to online tuition/fees)
- **Time to Completion:** 3 semesters (Fall, Spring, Summer)
- **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 Graduate Certificate in 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 program. How will completion of the Graduate Certificate in English as a Second Language help you fulfill this/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 certificate at this time. What steps have you taken (or will you take) to ensure that you will be successful in the program?
  - 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 certificate: English as a Second Language
- Select the appropriate term for Planned Semester and Year of Enrollment
- For Location, select ASU Online
- Upload required items listed above
- Submit the application and pay the appropriate application fee
- Send the remaining items to Graduate Admissions
Graduate Certificate in English as a Second Language

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>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 561</td>
<td>School, community, family culture, parental involvement</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Elective Courses (select 1 course)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total for Program** 18

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).

Additional Resources

- Application Deadlines: [http://education.asu.edu/application-deadlines](http://education.asu.edu/application-deadlines)
- How to Apply: [https://education.asu.edu/graduate-programs-how-apply](https://education.asu.edu/graduate-programs-how-apply)
- Faculty: [https://education.asu.edu/faculty-and-research/faculty-directory](https://education.asu.edu/faculty-and-research/faculty-directory)
- 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 completion may be affected as not all courses are offered every session.

**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 Session B (during Fall or Spring).

**Will I be eligible for financial aid?**
For any information about financial aid related to this program, please visit the Financial Aid website. For disclosure information about the U.S. Department of Education Gainful Employment Program, students should see [https://catalog.asu.edu/files/disclosures/TEESLGRCT/Gedt.html](https://catalog.asu.edu/files/disclosures/TEESLGRCT/Gedt.html).

**Do I need access to a classroom during the courses?**
Several courses in the program require direct contact with a learner, preferably an English language learner. This does not have to be a classroom setting; however, it can be.
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. **Students who do not have two years of full-time verifiable teaching experience in an ESL or BLE classroom will need to take BLE 580 (Practicum) in addition to the regular certificate coursework.** This course is available as part of the Masters of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction (ESL), and can be taken with departmental approval.

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.

This table 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>
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<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.