

**Proposal:**  
**Undergraduate Certificate in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)**

The *TESOL undergraduate certificate* will consist of a coherent set of courses that are related to teaching English to speakers of other languages. This certificate will be attractive to students who are interested in teaching English as a foreign language (EFL). It will also be a good preparation for students who want to later pursue graduate studies in the MTESL program at ASU or in a similar program at another institution. Note, however, that this certificate does *not* certify students to teach in AZ public schools (K-12).

**1. Program Justification**

The proposed certificate program would allow recognizing the coherent set of courses students take in the field of TESOL. The TESOL certificate is likely to increase the marketability of our undergraduate students who are applying for an English-teaching position overseas. Currently ASU does not offer a major or minor specifically focusing on TESOL at the undergraduate level.

All the courses, faculty expertise, and other resources needed for the certificate are already available, and some students with strong interests in the field already take advantage of it. What the proposed certificate provides is a formal structure to (1) help students take a series of courses relevant to their goals more systematically, and (2) to have their expertise in the field of TESOL explicitly recognized on the transcript.

**2. Student Demand for a Certificate**

Each year, several undergraduate students, particularly students who have participated in study abroad programs, express interest in teaching English overseas immediately after graduation, and we advise them to take courses similar to what is required for this certificate. In a sense, these students are already completing the TESOL certificate although we have no way of officially recognizing this fact. These students typically come from majors such as English, Linguistics, SILC, Geography, Education, Anthropology, and Political Sciences and Global Studies. International students may also be attracted to this certificate, as an additional option for them to find a job as they return to their home country upon graduation, should they fail to find a position in their field.

**3. Evidence of Employer Demand**

Analysis of recent job advertisements as well as conversation with EFL program administrators and teacher educators from different parts of the world suggest that there are many overseas teaching opportunities for students with BA degrees and some background in teaching English to speakers of other languages. We believe that, in applying for such jobs, an official TESOL certificate would help our students stand out from the crowd.

**4. Faculty Resources**

We offer a Master's degree in MTESL, which requires from our faculty to teach classes that are very similar in nature to those included in the proposed certificate. In other words, our faculty already offers the courses as part of the curriculum.

Primary faculty: Mark James (Associate Professor), Roy Major (Professor), Paul Kei Matsuda (Professor), Aya Matsuda (Assistant Professor), Matthew Prior (Assistant Professor), Claire Renaud (Assistant Professor), and Bryan Smith (Associate Professor).

Supporting faculty: Karen Adams (Professor), Carrie Gillon (Assistant Professor), Robert Mailhammer (Assistant Professor), Elly van Gelderen (Regents Professor).

**5. Program Administration**

Students must approach the TESOL certificate coordinator with an interest in completing the certificate. The TESOL certificate coordinator will ensure that all requirements are fulfilled and will

advise the registrar's office, indicating that the certificate should be awarded to the student. No new resources are needed, and new courses need not be specifically created for this program.

The TESOL certificate coordinator will oversee the program and advise students as to the classes they ought to take. He or she will be responsible for ensuring that all requirements are fulfilled by the students.

#### 6. Recruitment

Information about the certificate will be disseminated to students using the existing resources to advertise various English programs, including its website, undergraduate advisors, and announcements made in related courses.

#### 7. Admission and Requirements

Any student admitted to ASU can elect to complete the certificate program. Interested students should approach the TESOL certificate coordinator, a faculty member supervising the program, to discuss whether they could complete the 18 credits of the program as well as decide on the electives they would like to take.

To complete the certificate, students must complete 18 credit hours with a minimum grade of "C". Twelve of these credits will come from upper-undergraduate classes. A minimum residency requirement: All courses must be ASU credit.

Required classes (12 credit hours):

- ENG 213: Introduction to the study of language
- ENG 404<sup>1</sup>: A course in SLA Theory
- ENG 404: A course in TESOL Methods
- ENG 484: Internship

Electives (6 credits): One (1) ENG 404 course with a different topic; and one (1) course such as ENG 214, ENG 313, ENG 314, ENG 312, ENG 413 or others approved by the advisor.

Upon the completion of course requirements, students must submit an unofficial transcript to the TESOL certificate coordinator. The coordinator, after verifying the requirement completion, will notify the registrar's office so that the certificate appears on the transcript with the correct title.

#### 8. Learning Outcome

At the completion of program, students will have a fundamental understanding of key issues and practices in the teaching English as a foreign language, second language acquisition, the structure of English, and uses of English in various contexts, as demonstrated by the successful completion of required and elective courses.

#### 9. Program Size

Projected Enrollment in the Program

Year 1: 3-5      Year 2: 4-6      Year 3: 5-10      Year 4: 5-10      Year 5: 5-10

Because this is a certificate, students may wait until their graduating semester to declare; as a result, the actual number of students working *toward* the certificate at any given semester may be slightly larger.

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<sup>1</sup> ENG 414 has been requested to be split between ENG 414 and ENG 404.