Online TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) Certificate Program – Enrollee Handbook

Mission Statement

The Online Teaching English to Speakers of Other Language (TESOL) Certificate Program at Michigan State University aims to provide aspiring English second language teachers with the ability to (a) learn from a team of researchers and teachers from the Second Language Studies Program and the English Language Center at Michigan State University, (b) practice designing and teaching lessons, c) acquire essential teaching theory and practice, and (d) receive feedback from experienced ESL instructors.

Overall Online TESOL Certificate Program Description

This Online TESOL Certificate Program at Michigan State University is a stand-alone program, and is not associated with graduate or undergraduate level credentials. Rather the certificate is a non-credit credential for individuals interested in learning more about language acquisition/learning, foundations in language teaching, and best practices in lesson planning/design. Our TESOL certificate is really meant for individuals looking to work and live abroad and it's primarily focused on adults. This certificate is similar to other 120+ hour certificates you find throughout our TESOL field.

The Online TESOL Certificate Program was developed by the Second Language Studies Program and the English Language Center at Michigan State University. The three foundation courses were designed by experts in the fields of Second Language Studies, Applied Linguistics, and TESOL. For instance, the course on Pedagogical Grammar was designed by Dr. Matt Kessler. The course on Instructed Second Language Learning was designed by Dr. Shawn Loewen, an award-winning scholar and expert in the field of instructed second language acquisition.

The program is self-paced and has three courses, a practicum, and a final portfolio. We estimate completion time to be between 6 and 9 months, but that will vary by each individual and their own pacing. Individuals who are not interested in the full certificate are able to enroll in the following courses individually: 1) Pedagogical Grammar 2) Introduction to Second Language Learning 3) Foundations of Language Teaching 4) Practicum.

Who is the Program For?

Enrollees in the Online TESOL Certificate Program must be 18 years of age or older. Enrollees can be native or non-native English speakers located in the U.S. or abroad and coming from a variety of backgrounds. Our enrollees all have the same goal: to further their teacher preparation.

Our certificate is really meant for individuals looking to work and live abroad and it is primarily focused on teaching adults. Within the U.S., the certificate would not be the same as an endorsement or an addition to a teaching license. If you are thinking about opening opportunities for a K-12 classroom, there are other options you may want to explore including graduate level

coursework, enrolling in a graduate degree, attending professional conferences like [MITESOL](), among many others.

Credit Transfer Policy

The Online TESOL Certificate Program is a self-paced, non-credit, asynchronous curriculum with specific assignments feeding directly into the practicum and the final portfolio. Due to this curricular design, we are unable to waive modules or give credit for coursework taken at other institutions.

Course and Program Tuition

The full tuition price covers everything but one required coursebook, which costs roughly $40 on Amazon for a new text. Additional tuition costs and individual course pricing, including refund policies, are available on [the Online TESOL Certificate Program website]().

Refund Policy

Full refunds offered within 30 days of purchase and prior to opening any of the courses in D2L less a $45 service charge. 50% refund is offered when canceling less than 2 days after opening any of the courses in D2L. No refund is available when canceling after the 2-day grace period.

The Online TESOL Certificate Program Instructional Hours Breakdown

Each foundational course is the equivalent of 40 instructional hours. The practicum is the equivalent of 10 instructional hours and the final portfolio is the equivalent of 2 instructional hours. The total program is 132 instructional hours.

Course Access Information

The Online TESOL Certificate Program includes three courses, a practicum, and a final portfolio, which are all housed within MSU's learning management system (LMS), Desire2Learn (D2L). Enrollees will use either their MSU NetID (for individuals with an already existing relationship to MSU) or a Community/Guest NetID (for individuals new to the MSU community). At any point, if you have difficulty accessing the course material or D2L, please contact Technology Support at https://tech.msu.edu/support/help/. If additional support is needed, contact the course facilitators via email at tesolcrt@msu.edu.

Upon receipt of payment, the course facilitator will provide individuals with access to the three foundational courses, the practicum and final portfolio. An Online TESOL Certificate Program course facilitator is available to assist students as they progress through the courses and will contact students periodically during the practicum and final portfolio assignments.

Each course begins with an introductory video. If an individual is unsure of where to go next, they should visit the "Content" icon at the top of the page. Within the "Content" tab, they will find the Course Information tab on the left to get started. Individuals can use the [D2L help pages]() for technical help or contact course facilitators at tesolcrt@msu.edu for content help.

Course Syllabi

All of the course syllabi are maintained on [the Online TESOL Certificate Program website](). Direct links provided to each syllabus here:

[Pedagogical Grammar]()
[Introduction to Second Language Learning]()
[Foundations of Language Teaching]()
[Practicum]()
[Final Portfolio]()

Course Descriptions

Please view the individual course syllabi for more details. The following are short descriptions of each course.

Pedagogical Grammar

This course focuses on English grammar with an emphasis on developing pedagogically sound teaching practices and/or materials. We will focus on grammar topics that teachers are most likely to encounter when teaching English. Material covered also includes techniques for teaching grammar and providing feedback. Please see the [Pedagogical Grammar Course Announcement]() for additional information and the syllabus link above for the course outline. There is a required textbook for this course: Folse, K. S. (2016). *Keys to teaching grammar to English language learners: A practical handbook* (2nd ed.). Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press. ISBN: 978-0-472-03667-7

Introduction to Second Language Learning

This course is designed to give you an in-depth look into the concepts related to second language learning. These concepts include both the challenges that languages present as well as the individual differences that learners possess. Emphasis is on practical, classroom-relevant principles of language learning. Please see the syllabus link above for additional information and a course outline.

Foundations of Language Teaching

This course is designed to give individuals an in-depth look into national and international approaches, methods, settings, and materials for language teaching. The course also provides an overview on macro-skills (i.e. listening, speaking, reading, and writing) and on effective lesson planning in traditional and virtual environments with a focus on instructional objectives, assessment, and classroom management. Please see the syllabus link above for additional information and a course outline.

Practicum

For the practicum, individuals will go through a series of observations (online), write lesson plans (for online and/or traditional classrooms), design activities and materials for instruction, and teach for a minimum of 15 minutes or longer, demonstrating your incorporation of your lesson plans, activities, and other teaching materials you've developed. This teaching demonstration video, or demo, can be asynchronous, synchronous, or in-person teaching. This teaching portion will be negotiable as some prospective teachers are more interested in online

environments while others are more interested in teaching in a traditional classroom. Please see the syllabus link above for additional information and a course outline.

Final Portfolio

For the final portfolio, individuals will put all their work from the three foundation courses and the practicum into a shareable format that demonstrates their abilities based on what they learned throughout the certificate. The final portfolio will also include a student-selected platform to share professional components, which will serve the individual well as they begin teaching in the future, including pertinent background information, your teaching philosophy, examples of teaching tasks (lessons, activities, handouts, and the like), and additional sections that demonstrate teaching (classroom resources, program assignments, your teaching demo, etc.) and professional development (CV, skills, learning resources, texts, etc.). Please see the syllabus link above for additional information and a course outline.

About Us

The Online TESOL Certificate Program at Michigan State University is brought to you by the College of Arts & Letters in a collaboration between the Department of Linguistics, Languages, and Cultures, the Master of Arts in TESOL, the Second Language Studies Ph.D. Program and the English Language Center.

College of Arts & Letters

The MSU College of Arts & Letters (CAL) educates actors, artists, designers, filmmakers, linguists, philosophers, poets, teachers, translators, writers and much more in a creative, learning and nurturing environment. Students who come to us with experience in their chosen field find the additional knowledge and personal space to further learn their craft and hone their skills. Those who have yet to identify their future life's work are met with diverse opportunities for creative reflection to explore the world and find their passion.

Beyond traditional coursework, CAL provides student and faculty collaboration, interdisciplinary course offerings in the arts and humanities, and opportunities to engage the greater MSU community as well as those outside of campus. In these ways, we strive to nurture and produce artists, designers, teachers and writers whose work truly matters as they help build the body of work and shape the future of their chosen professions. For more information go to [CAL Overview](#).