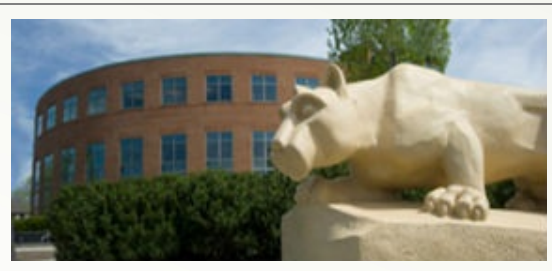


English as a Second Language (ESL) Program Specialist Certification

Penn State Harrisburg offers the ESL Program Specialist Certification program online to PreK-12 educators, candidates in the Master's in Teaching and Curriculum Program, and to undergraduate students enrolled in education programs who may be interested in obtaining the ESL Certificate from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). The focus of the program is on preparing educators to meet the needs of English language learners in the culturally and linguistically diverse PreK-12 classroom.

This program is recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE).



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PennState
Harrisburg

**School of Behavioral
Sciences and Education**



**English as a Second
Language (ESL) Program
Specialist Certification**

Curriculum

Program Goals

The primary goals of the program are:

- To broaden PreK-12 educators' knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of cultural and linguistic differences, language acquisition, literacy development, and reflective teaching practices within the ESL classroom
- To enhance PreK-12 educators' abilities to develop and use curricular, instructional, and assessment strategies and materials that raise the achievement levels and increase the academic success of English language learners

Candidate learning outcomes are aligned with PDE and TESOL standards, and fulfill the PDE academic requirements for the ESL Program Specialist certification.

Who Should Enroll

Enrollment in the 15-credit, ESL Program Specialist Certification program is open to all PreK-12 educators, candidates in the Master of Education in Teaching and Curriculum program, and undergraduates enrolled in education programs who may be interested in obtaining the ESL Certificate from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE).

Courses Overview

The ESL Program Specialist Certification program consists of 5 core courses, totaling 15 credits.

- Candidates may take the first four courses (EDUC 466, 467, 468, and 469) in any order.
- The fourth course (EDUC 469) must be taken before the fifth course (EDUC 475).

EDUC 466 FOUNDATIONS OF TEACHING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (3) - An introduction to the legal, historical, and cultural implications of ESL, including the fundamentals of developing English language skills, an overview of second language acquisition, and multicultural education.

EDUC 467 ENGLISH LANGUAGE STRUCTURE FOR ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE TEACHERS (3) - An in-depth study of general linguistic concepts and their application to ESL pedagogy. A review of the major ideas related to linguistic analysis of grammar and dialect with a focus on syntax and discourse, language and communication, and evaluative classroom instruments used to measure student progress.

EDUC 468 LANGUAGE ACQUISITION FOR ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE TEACHERS (3) – In depth study of the process involved in the acquisition and development of first language interrelations between psycholinguistics and cognition. Development of an understanding of the process involved in the acquisition and development of language, including learning a second language, differences in how children, adolescents, and adults learn language, and evaluative classroom instruments to measure student progress.

EDUC 469 TEACHING METHODS AND ASSESSMENT OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (3) – Preparation for ESL teaching through the study of: (1) trends, major theories, methodologies, and assessment in second language learning; (2) second language teaching approaches applicable to elementary, middle, and high school students; (3) materials development and evaluation, and (4) the exploration of teacher action research in the ESL classroom. Development of a broad base of knowledge and skills to increase teacher effectiveness in meeting the needs of diverse learners through appropriate instructional, curricular, and behavioral strategies.

EDUC 475 ESL LEADERSHIP, RESEARCH, AND ADVOCACY (3) -ESL Leadership is the final capstone course for the ESL Specialist and Leadership Certification program for graduate and non-degree candidates in the ESL Program grant program. This hybrid course involves online readings and discussions about ESL and field-based action research in PreK-12 educational settings with English language learners (ELLs).

Program Requirements for Admission

Admission for K-12 educators is on a rolling basis and follows the Penn State non-degree graduate student admission guidelines.

To be certified to PDE for the ESL Program Specialist Certificate, candidates must meet the following requirements:

- Successfully complete the 5 ESL courses (EDUC 466, 467, 468, 469, and 475) with a grade of C or above.
- Possess a valid Pennsylvania Teaching Certificate.

For students interested in receiving ACT 48 credit, please consult the Registrar's Office at Penn State University, University Park.

How to Enroll

- To enroll, complete the Graduate School online application.
- Follow the instructions to log in.
- For Enrollment Type, select "Nondegree Admission." (Certification or Endorsement programs do not award a degree)
- For Campus, choose "Harrisburg."
- Select the appropriate semester of enrollment.
- Save and continue to add your information and submit the application.

Note: Existing Teaching and Curriculum master's program students and undergraduate students are not required to complete a separate Penn State application for the ESL Program Specialist certification program.

If you experience difficulty using our online application, please contact:
Katie Martin at kwm19@psu.edu or 717-948-6213