

Master of Arts in TESOL

The University of Texas at Arlington

Program Description

The MA in TESOL is a professional degree designed for those who wish to work with learners of English. The educational objective is to prepare teachers of ESOL for work outside the American public school setting. The successful student will have theoretical and practical knowledge about those factors that constitute a sound ESOL program, for example, human language learning, language in its socio-cultural settings and uses, language program structures, and support for achievement of learner objectives.

I. There are two MA TESOL degree options:

A. The non-thesis option includes course study and a comprehensive examination.

1. Course study constitutes 12 courses (36 credits).
 - a. There are 8 required courses (24 credits).
 - b. There are 4 elective courses (12 credits).
2. The comprehensive examination is written; it takes 4 hours.

B. The thesis option includes course study and a thesis.

1. Course study constitutes 9 courses (27 credits).
 - a. There are 8 required courses (24 credits).
 - b. There is 1 course in research design (3 credits).
2. The thesis is the equivalent of two courses (6 credits)
 - a. The thesis involves original research.
 - b. The thesis defense is an oral examination.

II. The coursework includes required courses and electives.

A. For both degree options, there are 8 required courses (24 credits) in Linguistics and TESOL.

1. In the area of Linguistics, there are 3 courses (9 credits).
 - a. LING 5300 Linguistic Analysis
 - b. LING 5305 Second Language Acquisition
 - c. LING 5310 Sociolinguistics
(For LING 5310, there are two possible substitutions: LING 5311: Sociolinguistics of Society or LING 5351: Spoken Discourse)
2. In the area of TESOL, there are 5 courses (15 credits).
 - a. There are 3 required courses (9 credits).
 - 1) LING 5301 TESOL

- 2) LING 5302 TESOL Reading and Composition (new for spring 2004)
 - 3) LING 5393 TESOL Teaching (a hands-on “practicum” course)
- b. Two advanced courses (6 credits) about TESOL are required:
- 1) LING 5304 TESOL Pedagogical Grammar
 - 2) LING 5307 TESOL Pedagogical Phonology
- (For one of these two advanced courses, a student may elect to substitute LING 5306: TESOL Curriculum Design)*

Course Sequencing

LING 5300 (or equivalent linguistics foundation) is prerequisite for LING 5310/-11/-51, and LING 5305.

LING 5301 is prerequisite for LING 5302, LING 5303, LING 5304 and LING 5307.

LING 5302 is prerequisite for LING 5393.

For more detailed course descriptions, go to the on-line Graduate Course List for Linguistics.

- B. For the non-thesis option, there are 4 elective courses (12 credits), to be selected in consultation with the graduate advisor, from any department).
1. Elective courses may be in Linguistics.
 2. Elective courses may be in other departments, for example:
 - a. COMM 4335 International-Intercultural Communication
 - b. EDAD 5309 Advanced Instructional Strategies
 - c. EDUC 5301 Current Applications of Technology in Education
 - d. ENGL 4339 Rhetoric and Composition
 - e. ENGL 5355 Studies in English Discourse
 - f. ENGL 5358 Principles and Methods of Evaluation
 - g. MANA 4323 Organization Analysis & Design: Culture, Process, & Structure
 - h. MANA 4324 or 5312 Organizational Behavior
 - i. MODL 5305 Methods of MLT
 - j. MODL 5307 Topics in Second Language Acquisition
 - k. MODL 5308 Technology and Language Instruction
 - l. READ 5357 Comparative Literacy Programs
 - m. READ 5362 Literacy Instruction in ESL/Bilingual Settings
 - n. SOCI 3327 Intercultural Interaction
 - o. SPAN 5302 Spanish Dialectology
 - p. SPAN 5303 Applied Spanish Linguistics
 3. Elective courses may be taken at the GIAL (Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics, International Linguistics Center, Dallas).
- C. For the thesis option, there is required 1 course in research design (3 credits), for example:
1. EDUC 5321, Educational Research
 2. SOCI 3352, Social Statistics
 3. Equivalent

Admissions Requirements

The admission requirements are meant to assure that the entering student has a sound educational foundation to undertake the MA TESOL program.

In evaluating candidates for admissions to the MA TESOL Program, the Linguistics Faculty has adopted a comprehensive approach that is sensitive to the diversity of backgrounds of its applicants. To this end, the following constellation of quantitative and qualitative factors has been established to make explicit the range of criteria upon which admissions decisions will be based. These factors are then applied to the Evaluation Metrics established in section B.

A. Admission Factors

1. Quantitative Factors

- a) For MA TESOL applicants, undergraduate grade point average (GPA) is determined by the UT Arlington Graduate School.
- b) For every applicant, Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores are based on all three parts of the general exam: verbal, quantitative, and analytical (V+Q+A).

2. Qualitative Factors

- a. Letters of recommendation: Each applicant must present three (3) letters of recommendation that clearly indicate that the applicant is prepared for and capable of successful graduate study in TESOL at UT Arlington. The letters should further indicate that the applicant is capable of completing the degree program.
- b. Personal Statement: Each applicant must write a statement that explains how graduate study in TESOL is related to both his/her previous academic training and his/her career goals. The statement will be evaluated on the degree to which it is clear, reasonable, and consistent with the MA TESOL curriculum. It should also convey a level of commitment and maturity commensurate with the applicant's ultimate professional goals.
- c. Undergraduate Preparation: Applicants must have earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited United States college or university or from a foreign equivalent. Applicants must also have passed the following two courses or reasonable equivalents as determined by the graduate advisor (UT Arlington equivalents are noted in parentheses):
 - English composition (ENGL 1302);
 - English-language literature (see UTA undergraduate catalogue for appropriate 2000- and 3000-level courses);
- d. Evidence of Second-Language Experience: Applicants must have had experience in learning a second language and culture, as documented by one of the following:
 1. Completion of four (4) semesters of university-level foreign language study, with a 3.0 GPA; or
 2. Passing a foreign language exam to show proficiency equivalent to the completion of four (4) semesters' study of the same; or
 3. Receipt of a bachelor's degree from non-English-medium college or university.

B. Evaluation Metrics

Admission criteria for the M.A. in TESOL program are listed in the Graduate Catalog pages [here](#):

Special Requests Regarding Admission to the Proposed MA in TESOL

Because many of the students who earned UT Arlington's Graduate Certificate in TESOL did so as "Special Students" in the Graduate School, we would need to implement a procedure for allowing them to re-enroll to the UTA Graduate School as regular degree-seeking students. To expedite the processing of such candidates and to increase the potential yield from this applicant pool, the following two exceptions are requested.

A. Admissions Exception

Those applicants to the MA TESOL program who earned a Graduate Certificate in TESOL from UT Arlington after September 1, 1998, and who did so as "Special Students" in the Graduate School will be allowed to waive the condition that they take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) provided that they:

1. Submit a complete application to the UTA Graduate School (including all fees and required transcripts); and
2. Have earned a GPA of at least 3.6 for those UTA courses that were taken for the Graduate Certificate in TESOL; and
3. Meet the remainder of the published criteria for unconditional admission.

Applicants not meeting the conditions set forth above must re-apply *de-novo* to the UTA Graduate School and sit for the GRE.

B. Course Limitation Exception

Students enrolled in the MA TESOL program who were awarded a Graduate Certificate in TESOL at UT Arlington between September 1, 1998 and January 1, 2003 may apply all 18 graduate-level credit hours earned in organized classes for the Graduate Certificate in TESOL toward an MA in TESOL.