

The Graduate School
600 Lincoln Avenue
Charleston, IL 61920

Effective: Fall 2014

Graduate Certificate
Program Proposal

Part 1: Catalog: Information appearing in this section of the proposal will be published in the Graduate Catalog.

Name of Department or School:

Early Childhood, Elementary and Middle Level Education

Title of the Certificate Program:

Certificate in English as a Second Language (ESL) Instruction

Certificate Program Mission:

The Certificate in ESL Instruction is designed for educators who hold a valid teaching license, have previous coursework/experience in reading and language arts methods and want to develop their professional knowledge and skills in regard to teaching English as a second language to students (i.e., Pre-School to Grade 12). Although this Certificate does not result in the ESL Endorsement with the State of Illinois, these graduate courses may be applied toward the requirements for the ESL Endorsement in Illinois, including ESL clinical experiences equal to 100 clock hours.

Certificate Admission Requirements:

This certificate is available to licensed teachers who can provide documentation of prior coursework/experience in reading and language arts methods. Non-licensed individuals who can document prior coursework/experience in reading and language arts and who want to develop their professional knowledge and skills in regard to teaching English as a second language will be considered for admission on a case-by-case basis. To be eligible for admission to the certificate program, applicants must meet all of the requirements for admission to the Graduate School that include verification of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution approved by Eastern Illinois University. In addition, documentation of a minimum undergraduate cumulative grade point average of 3.0 within the last 60 hours of undergraduate study (or 3.0 GPA in the first 12 hours of graduate coursework) is required. The applicant must submit an Application for Admission to the Graduate School and an Application for Admission to the Certificate Program through the Department of Early Childhood, Elementary and Middle Level Education.

Degree Audit:

The graduate plan of study is the EIU Degree Audit, which is generated automatically in the Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS) at the time of degree or certificate candidacy. Modifications of the standard EIU Degree Audit are submitted by the graduate coordinator to the certification officer in the Graduate School at the time modifications are approved. The Degree Audit serves as an unofficial summary of requirements for the program. Degree and certificate candidates are advised to review the comprehensive summary of the Degree Audit process specified on the “Requirements for All Degree and Certificate Candidates” section of the Graduate Catalog. Individual programs may require candidates to submit plans of study in addition to the Degree Audit, candidates should consult with the program coordinator.

Certificate Course/Curriculum Requirements:

The Department of Early Childhood, Elementary and Middle Level Education Certificate in ESL Instruction requires 18 semester hours of study including both required and elective courses. Total Credits: 18

Required Courses (Required Credits - 18):

The eighteen semester hours of required coursework are listed below.

- ELE/EDF 5310 – Foundations of ESL/Bilingual Education (3 hrs.)
- ENG 5091B – Studies in Language, Linguistics, and Literacy (3 hrs.)
- ELE/MLE 4850 – Exploring English Language Learners through Study Abroad/Study Away Experiences (1 hr.)
- or
- ELE/MLE 4855 – Exploring ESL Students through Clinical Experiences (1-3 hrs.) [NOTE: Required...if not already completed]
- EDF 5320 - Foundations of Cross Cultural Education (3 hrs.)
- ELE/MLE 4890 - Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students/English Language Learners: Instructional Methods (3 hrs.)
[NOTE: Required...if not already completed for BSSED]
- EDP 5400 - Assessment of the Bilingual Student (3 hrs.)

In special circumstances other courses may be used as elective credit if approved by the Graduate Coordinator in the Department of Early Childhood, Elementary and Middle Level Education:

- CMN 5530 – Intercultural Communication (3 hrs.) - Existing course
- EDF 5550 – Comparative and International Education (3 hrs.) – Existing course
- ELE/MLE 5400B – Special Issues (3 hrs.)

NOTE: Persons seeking an ESL endorsement through the state of Illinois must have:

- A valid professional Illinois teaching certificate
- A total of 18 semester hours of course work distributed among the following course areas:

- Linguistics
- Theoretical Foundations of Teaching ESL
- Assessment of the Bilingual Student
- Methods and Materials for teaching ESL
- Cross-cultural studies for Teaching Limited-English-Proficient Students
- ESL clinical experience equal to 100 clock hours or three months teaching experience with ESL students.
- Prior course work will be evaluated to determine if additional course work is required to meet the specific requirements as set forth by the State of Illinois.

Courses Applicable toward a Specific Concurrent or Future Degree Program: Upon approval from the graduate coordinator, a minimum of fifteen graduate course credits completed for the certificate program may be applied to a Master's Degree in Elementary Education at Eastern Illinois University to fulfill requirements for the emphasis in ESL instruction. All courses applied to the certificate or degree program must be completed within the six-year time limit. All other regulations established by the Graduate School pertaining to degree study will be applicable to the courses if used toward a concurrent or future degree program.

EIU seniors may enroll for courses under the "Reserve Graduate Credit" option; but will be required to meet the standard admission requirements to be admitted to the certificate program after completion of the baccalaureate degree. Meeting the requirement to take courses under the reserve graduate credit option does not guarantee admission to the certificate program or the Master's Degree in Elementary Education.

Courses Applicable toward Concurrent or Future Additional Certificate Programs: Each separate certificate program must include 9 semester hours of new coursework that cannot be shared with a concurrent or future certificate program. With department approval, up to 9 semester hours of coursework may be shared with a concurrent or future certificate program. Certificate candidates should check with program coordinators for department specific policies.

Part II: Rationale: Information appearing in this section of the proposal will be used for Council review, but will not appear in the Graduate Catalog.

Program Rationale and Justification:

Census data show a rapidly increasing population of English Language Learners (ELL) nationally and in the state of Illinois, suggesting that teachers must be ready to serve this population. Unfortunately, however, a recent survey of graduates of Illinois teacher certification programs showed that new teachers felt less well-prepared to meet the needs of ESL instruction than any other aspect of their work (Illinois Association of Deans of Public Colleges of Education). Eastern Illinois University can greatly strengthen its education programs by preparing teachers in the area of ESL instruction.

Accommodating the needs of ELLs is one of the greatest challenges educators face today. Programs are being required to implement revised Illinois Professional Teaching Standards, which have a greater emphasis on working with diverse student populations, including ELLs. Beginning in 2014, new ESL requirements for early childhood educators serving ELLs in their classrooms take effect. The Illinois State Board of Education is encouraging institutions to offer their early childhood candidates opportunities to become endorsed in ESL. In the future, if an ESL endorsement program is mandated for early childhood teacher candidates, the framework developed for the Certificate in ESL Instruction would be a feasible model to adapt for an undergraduate equivalent. Both graduate and undergraduate programs could be offered concurrently to maximize University resources.

Completion of this certificate would provide students with recognition from the University for graduate work and, hopefully, prove to be a steppingstone to a Master's Degree Program.

Impact on Existing Programs: No negative impact to existing programs is anticipated.

Existing Courses that Apply to the Certificate:

ELE/EDF 5310 – Foundations of ESL/Bilingual Education (3 hrs.)
ENG 5091B – Studies in Language, Linguistics, and Literacy (3 hrs.)
ELE/MLE 4850 – Exploring English Language Learners through Study Abroad/Study Away Experiences (1 hr.)
ELE/MLE 4890 – Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students/English Language Learners: Instructional Methods (3 hrs.)
CMN 5530 – Intercultural Communication (3 hrs.)
EDF 5550 – Comparative and International Education (3 hrs.)
ELE/MLE 5400B – Special Issues (3 hrs.)

New Courses Required for the Certificate Program:

ELE/MLE 4855 – Exploring ESL Students through Clinical Experiences (1-3 hrs.)
EDF 5320 – Foundations of Cross Cultural Education (3 hrs.)
EDP 5400 - Assessment of the Bilingual Student (3 hrs.)

Number of Students Expected to Enroll Each Year: 15

Department Contact: Dr. Linda Reven, Graduate Coordinator

Part III: Approvals:

Department/School Curriculum Committee:

EC/ELE/MLE Curriculum Committee – 12/4/13
EC/ELE/MLE Faculty – 12/5/13

College Curriculum Committee: 1/27/14

Council on Graduate Studies:

Council on Teacher Education: