



College of Graduate Studies

Department of Languages and Linguistics

TESOL Graduate Program Frequently Asked Questions

1. What's the difference between the three tracks in the TESOL graduate program, and which track should I pursue?

There are three tracks in the program: M.Ed. in TESOL with NH K-12 ESOL License, M.Ed. in TESOL without NH ESOL K-12 License, and lastly, NH ESOL K-12 License without M.Ed.

- ***The M.Ed. and license track** is an M.Ed. in TESOL with NH ESOL K-12 license. It is 33-39 credits, and is designed for those who want to teach ELLs in a public school setting. Students who complete the program earn an M.Ed. in TESOL and fulfill the NH ESOL K-12 licensure requirements. Students in this track complete their practicum in a public school setting.*
- ***The M.Ed. non-license track** is an M.Ed. in TESOL without the NH ESOL K-12 license. This track is 33-36 credits, and is ideal for those who would like to teach ELLs overseas or work with adult ELLs.*
- ***The license-only track** is the New Hampshire ESOL K-12 license without an M.Ed. This track is 24-27 credits. Students completing this track fulfill the requirements for the NH ESOL K-12 license.*

2. How many classes are in the program?

There are up to 10 required classes plus a field experience in the [M.Ed. with NH ESOL license track](#), up to 11 classes plus a field experience in [the M.Ed. without license track](#), and 6 classes in the license-only track. Please see the program of study for each track for more details.

3. Are the classes in the program on-line or in person?

The program is a mix of on-line, in-person and blended (on-line plus in-person) classes. Please consult the calendar of courses in the program for more details on which core TESOL classes are offered in which format.

4. How many classes are offered on-line?

Four of the required classes are offered completely on-line. Please consult the calendar of classes for details.

5. Can the entire program be done on-line?

None of the three tracks can be done completely on-line. Three of the core classes require some in-person attendance. For more information on the format and location of each class, please consult the calendar of classes.

6. How many classes are in-person classes?

Three of the required TESOL classes are blended, meeting on-line and intensively in person. Please consult the calendar of classes for additional information on the format of each class.

7. When are classes offered?

The core TESOL classes are offered on a rotating basis, with most classes offered once a year.

- *LL 5004 Language and Linguistics, Summers*
- *LL 5003 Language Acquisition, Falls*
- *LL 5005 TESOL Methods, Falls*
- *LL 5006 Language Evaluation & Assessment, Springs*
- *LL 5007 ESOL Literacy, Winters*
- *LL 5050 Mainstream Classroom Strategies for English Language Learners, Winters, Springs and/or Summers,*
- *LL 5009 Intercultural Communication in Multicultural Classrooms, Springs.*

Please consult the course calendar for specific dates and formats for each class.

8. The calendar of classes only lists required core TESOL classes. When are the other classes in the program offered?

These non-core classes, without the LL prefix, are generally offered at least once a year, in different formats and in different quarters. Please consult the [College of Graduate Studies course schedule](#) for more information on when these classes are offered.

9. Can I begin classes in the program at any time of the year?

The program is designed so that students can enter and begin taking classes throughout the year. Quarters begin September 1st, December 1st, March 1st and July 1st.

10. How much time does it take to finish the program?

It depends on how many classes are taken in each quarter. Each track can be completed in 18 months of full-time coursework.

11. Is there a minimum number of classes I must take each year?

There is no minimum requirement; however, you must complete your degree within six years from the date of your admittance into a program.

12. What is the field experience, and what is the difference between the six-the nine-, and three-credit field experiences?

The six- and nine-credit practicums are part of both the M.Ed. with NH license and the license-only track. The six-credit practicum is reserved for those already employed in an ESOL classroom teaching setting. The nine-credit practicum is a traditional student teaching experience and is reserved for those without teaching experience. Students in the M.Ed. non-license track complete a three-credit field experience, which can be done in either an ESOL classroom or non-classroom setting.

13. Where do I complete the practicum and how much time does it take?

The six-credit practicum is done in the student's current classroom. The nine-credit student teaching practicum is completed in a New Hampshire public school. In general these two practicums are full-time for 12 weeks. The three-credit practicum can be done in any approved ESOL setting.

14. Do I need to have teaching experience or experience working with ELLs to enter the program?

No, it is not required that students in the program have teaching experience or experience working with ELLs to enter the program.

15. Do I need an M.Ed. or existing license to pursue the license-only track?

You can earn the NH ESOL license alone, without having a graduate degree or any other license.

16. Do I need an undergraduate degree in education to enter the program?

Students in the program are not required to have an undergraduate degree in education.

17. Can any of my undergraduate classes count towards the degree?

Undergraduate courses cannot transfer in and count for classes in the M. Ed. program. However, required classes can in some cases be waived, based on undergraduate coursework or prior teaching

experience. The program coordinator determines whether any undergraduate classes or prior work experience can transfer in and count in place of required classes in the program.

18. Can I transfer classes I have taken elsewhere into the program?

Students can petition to have up to nine graduate credits transferred in from other graduate programs. Transcripts and syllabi of these classes are evaluated by the program coordinator, who determines whether they can transfer into the program. Transferable courses must have been completed at an accredited institution within the past 6 years. A grade of B or higher is required and the courses must be equivalent to ones in the PSU TESOL graduate program.

19. Can I take classes in the program before I apply?

The College of Graduate Studies allows you to take up to three classes in the program before applying.

20. What are the minimum requirements for applying?

A 3.0 undergraduate GPA, and a passing TOEFL score if you are a non-native speaker of English. Please consult the [College of Graduate Studies admission page](#) for additional information on applications procedures.

21. When is the deadline for applying?

Applications are reviewed throughout the year; there is no deadline for applying. Admitted students can begin taking classes the next quarter. Classes begin in September, December, March and July. Please consult the [College of Graduate Studies admissions page](#) for more information on application procedures.

22. Do I need to take the GRE when I apply?

The College of Graduate Studies does not require the GRE for admission.

23. Do I need to know a foreign language to enter the program?

No; however, the state of New Hampshire requires two semesters of college-level foreign language study or the equivalent life experience/competency for the NH ESOL K-12 license.

24. Do I need to be a native speaker of English to enter the program?

No. If you are a non-native speaker you are required to submit a copy of your TOEFL score with your application packet. The TOEFL passing scores are: 550 paper-based, 213 computer-based, or 80 internet-based.

25. Are there specific requirements for international students?

Yes. Please consult the [College of Graduate Studies international students page](#) for more information.

26. What kinds of financial aid are available?

There are a limited number of graduate assistantships available. In addition, there are other forms of financial aid available. Please consult the [College of Graduate Studies Financial Aid page](#) for more details on available financial aid.

27. Is the NH ESOL license transferable to other states?

Each state has different requirements and procedures for reciprocal licensure. For more details, please consult the Department of Education for the state you are interested in gaining reciprocal licensure for.

28. Does this program qualify me to teach children?

The M.Ed. with the NH license and the license-only track give you the credential to teach ELLs in public schools in NH.

29. I want to work with adults. Does the M.Ed. qualify me for that?

Yes; the standard credential for working with adult ELLs is a graduate degree in TESOL.

30. I want to work overseas. Does the M.Ed. qualify me for that?

Yes; a graduate degree in TESOL is considered the standard credential for working with ELLs overseas.

31. What are the job prospects for someone in this field?

There are numerous employment opportunities working with children and adults in the United States and overseas.

There is a growing need within New Hampshire, throughout the country, and around the world for teachers trained in TESOL and confident in working with students whose primary language is not English.

ELLs are the fastest-growing segment of the New Hampshire public school population. This trend is true across the country, too; the Department of Education in Washington reports a 60% increase in ELLs nationwide in the last decade and predicts that by 2025, 1/3 of all students will not speak English when they begin kindergarten.

32. Who teaches in the graduate TESOL program?

All [professors in the program](#) hold public school ESOL licenses and have graduate training in the field. Professors in the program have a wealth of experience and training, working with ELLs of different ages and training prospective ELL teachers, in the United States and overseas.

33. Is the program accredited?

Plymouth State University's M.Ed. in TESOL is fully accredited by the Department of Education in New Hampshire, as well as by CAEP, Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation.

34. I have other questions that are not addressed above. Whom should I contact?

For general College of Graduate Studies admission questions (for example, financial aid, application questions and procedures, etc.), first please consult the [College of Graduate Studies FAQ page](#).

If you would like to speak with someone in the College of Graduate Studies, please contact Lynette Lawrence, Graduate Admissions and Student Services Manager: lelawrence@mail.plymouth.edu or (603) 535-3220.

For TESOL program-specific questions, please contact the TESOL Graduate Program Coordinator: James Whiting, jcwhiting@plymouth.edu or (603) 535-2370