



Photos by Dr. Sothy Eng, College of Education, Lehigh University.

College of Education – Certificate Programs Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)

Why Complete a Certificate in TESOL?

A certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) is currently one of the most practical and versatile academic certificates in higher education. A certificate in TESOL trains you to teach English to non-native speakers in the U.S. and abroad, and it can give you an edge when looking for teaching jobs in which some or all of the students are non-native speakers. Lehigh University’s College of Education offers a rigorous, 12-credit (4 course) certificate program that fully prepares you for a career in TESOL by offering you many opportunities to apply theory to practice. After completing Lehigh’s TESOL Certificate, you will not only know the best practices to assess and teach English to non-native speakers, but you will also understand how languages are learned and how the first languages and cultures of your English learners affect their learning styles, classroom interactions, and English language acquisition.

Program Options

- 12-credit TESOL Certificate for teachers and administrators in the U.S. and abroad
- Customized online, face-to-face, or hybrid TESOL training (credit or non-credit options available)
- Comprehensive assessment and English curriculum consulting for international schools

For more program details, please see the reverse side.

For more information, contact the Office of International Programs at intlcoe@lehigh.edu, via phone at (610) 758-5737 or visit us at www.lehigh.edu/lbl.

“Through the TESOL program at Lehigh, I have gained tools to work confidently in a second language education environment. I feel the coursework, which applies theoretical knowledge to real world situations, thoroughly prepared me to transition from Lehigh to my current position abroad.”



Brian McCommons
English Program Coordinator
International University of Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz, Bolivia



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Customized TESOL programs

Lehigh University will work with your international school or non-governmental organization to customize a TESOL training program for your teachers and staff. We are able to provide training 1) on campus at Lehigh University, 2) as a hybrid online and face-to-face program, or 3) on-site at your location. These programs can be offered as non-credit or for credit for teachers seeking to complete a degree or certificate at Lehigh.

Contextually Relevant English Assessments

Are you wondering how to better assess your Culturally and Linguistically Different (CLD) students to provide effective student placement and English support in your school? In addition to training your teachers and staff in best practices of TESOL, Lehigh can develop culturally and linguistically relevant English assessments for your school's CLD population, combined with customized training to implement the new assessments and an English curriculum that ensures the success of your students.

TESOL Lecturer and Director of ESL at Lehigh

Dr. Timothy Bonner



Timothy Bonner, Ph.D. Linguistics, has been a TESOL educator since 1994. He is the Director of English as a Second Language and teaches the TESOL certificate courses at Lehigh University. His specializations are in Second Language Acquisition, TESOL Principles and Practices, and Second Language Assessment. He also conducts research and presents in the fields of TESOL and Applied Linguistics and has conducted training courses and seminars to Pre-K-12 teachers in Asia, the Middle East, and the US.

Dr. Bonner's research areas are mainly in two areas of Linguistics: the first is focused on the acquisition of English inflections by non-native speakers and specifically how first language and input variation affect the cognition and output of second language inflections, and the second is focused on the effects of the first culture and the first language on a learner's accuracy in second language assessments. His research and teaching are both defined by his desire to improve the language instruction and assessment of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CLD) students. As a linguist, he also has a deep interest in learning languages and has studied Spanish, Arabic, Korean, and Chinese.

TESOL Certificate Course Descriptions

Educ 419 Second Language Acquisition (SLA) Theory (3)

This course will introduce theories of second-language acquisition, including issues of acquisition of English as a second language as well as other languages. Various theories of communication and language acquisition will be covered.

EDUC 421 Intercultural Communication (3)

Language is ambiguous by nature, and discourse is interpreted in cultural and linguistic contexts. This course covers different cultural and linguistic strategies individuals use to communicate, essential concepts for interacting with individuals from other cultural and linguistic backgrounds, and different strategies of communication as defined by specific cultures. Covering the theory

and practice of intercultural interaction, the course examines assumptions about language and culture and includes practical advice to help students develop the cultural sensitivity essential for communication today.

Educ 422 Theory & Practice for Second Language Learning (3)

This course presents the application of SLA theories in relationship to teaching, and reviews methods and materials needed for ESL instruction in a regular classroom and in a pullout program and will demonstrate the knowledge of fundamental concepts and practices of ESL instruction with an emphasis on instructional materials and strategies. Participants will be able to identify appropriate materials and resources to be used with students at each level of English Proficiency.

Educ 423 Second Language Assessment (3)

This is a broad-spectrum course around the use of assessment tools, and other evaluation measurements for diagnosis, prescription, and evaluation of students in ESL programs. Participants will learn the effective assessment practice and support services available to ESL students. Participants will examine, explore and understand the purposes for assessment, multiple assessment models, use of evaluation techniques, scaffolding of assessments, and formal/informal assessment tools. Finally, participants will gain hands-on experience in test administration, interpretation and reporting.

"The TESOL program builds a solid foundation about TESOL theory, practice and assessment..."



Jin Wang
M.Ed. Candidate
Instructional Technology
Lehigh University

"The instructor walks through all steps of TESOL research systematically and provides wonderful guidance on collecting data, making hypotheses and making critical assessment. It is a rewarding and fruitful learning journey."

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