

Minors In Teaching English as a Second Language

Purpose: The Department of Linguistics offers two distinct Minors in ESL. Each minor leads to a different professional credential.

- (A) *Minor in ESL* (ESL) offers preparation for teaching ESL in non-public school settings. An undergraduate who completes the Minor in ESL may apply for a Certificate in TESL.
- (B) *Teacher Education Minor in ESL* (TESL) prepares candidates who have a teaching certificate and want to teach ESL in public school settings. This minor leads to a State of Illinois ESL Endorsement and to a State of Illinois ENL Endorsement. See the following FAQ for more information.

A. Minor in ESL (leading to a Certificate in TESL)

Minor Code: 1198 (declare 'ESL'): <http://provost.illinois.edu/programs/advising/declare.html>.

Program Requirements (18 credit hours): The Minor in ESL consists of six courses, three of which are required and three of which are elective.

Required Course (3)	Offered	Electives (Choose any 3)	Offered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Introduction to Linguistics (choose ONE from below): 	See below	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engl Grammar for ESL Teachers: EIL 422 	F (Online/on campus), Sp
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ling 100 (undergrads only, OR) 	F, Sp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second Lang Reading & Writing: EIL 445 	Sp only
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ling 400 OR 	F (Online), Sp (online)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lang in Social Interaction I: EIL 456 	F, Sp
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EIL 486 (intro to ling for language teachers) 	Su II (Online)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles of Lang Testing: EIL 460 	F, Sp, Su II (Online, alternates with 487)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theoretical Foundations of SLA: LING 489 	F, Sp, SuII (Online)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology for Lang Learning: EIL 487 	Su II (Online, alternates with 460)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro to TESL Methodology: EIL 411 	F, Sp, SuII (Online)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engl Phon & Morph for TESL: EIL 488 	Sp only (Online/on campus)

Candidates for the Minor in ESL are expected to contact the Program Director at the beginning of course work for the minor.

Certificate in TESL: Upon completion of the Minor in ESL, the candidate may apply to receive a Certificate in TESL. For further information, see this [certificate document](#).

B. Teacher Education Minor in ESL
(leading to State of Illinois ESL and ENL Endorsements)

Minor Code: 1737 (declare ‘TESL’) <http://provost.illinois.edu/programs/advising/declare.html>.

Eligibility: Candidate is working toward a regular teaching certificate (Types 03, 04, 09, 10).

Program Requirements (24 credit hours): The Teacher Education Minor in ESL consists of six required courses and two elective courses.

Required Course (6)	Offered	Electives (2, Choose one from each group)	Offered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Introduction to Linguistics (choose ONE from below): 	See below	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Teaching (choose one) 	See below
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ling 100 (undergrads only, OR 	F, Sp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TESL in the Elementary School OR 	F, Sp
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EIL 486 (Intro to ling for language teachers) 	Su II (Online)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TESL in the Secondary School 	F, Sp
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theoretical Foundations of SLA: LING 489 	F, Sp, SuII (Online)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro to TESL Methodology: EIL 411 	F, Sp, SuII (Online)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language and Socio (choose one) 	See below
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engl Grammar for ESL Teachers: EIL 422 	F (Online/on campus), Sp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lang in Social Interaction I: EIL 456 	F, Sp
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles of Lang Testing: EIL 460 	F, Sp, Su II (Online, alternates with 487)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Culture in the Classroom: CI 446 	See online schedule
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engl Phon & Morph for TESL: EIL 488 	Sp only (Online/on campus)		

Candidates for the Teacher Education Minor in ESL are expected to contact the Program Director at the beginning of course work for the minor.

Preparation for On-site Practical Experience (EIL 214 or EIL 215). When the candidate has completed an introduction to linguistics, EIL 411, and EIL 489, the candidate is eligible to enroll in EIL 214 or 215, according to the level of endorsement sought, and to be placed with a public school teacher for the required 100 clock hours of clinical experience.

Additional course work: Students are advised that additional course work may be necessary to teach middle grades six through eight. Consult the certification officer at the [Council on Teacher Education](#), 505 East Green, Champaign, IL, Suite 203, for information.

Course Availability: Required and elective courses listed above are available each long

semester. EIL 486 - Linguistics for Language Teachers, offered online during Summer 2 session, will satisfy the requirement for an Introduction to Linguistics. For information about this and other online courses, please see [this listing](#).

ESL Endorsement: Upon completion of the Teacher Education Minor in ESL, the candidate may contact the Council on Teacher Education for instructions on applying for State of Illinois ESL Endorsement. See the FAQ on Minors in ESL (p. 4) for details.

ENL Endorsement: The Teacher Education Minor in ESL also qualifies a candidate who holds a secondary school teaching license for the ENL Endorsement once the candidate has passed a State-administered TESL proficiency test. For more information about this endorsement, see the FAQ on Minors in ESL (p. 4).

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FAQ on ESL Minors

Frequently asked questions about the Undergraduate Minors in English as a Second Language.

Q: Why are there two minors in ESL.

A: One is called Minor in English as a Second Language. The other is called Teacher Education Minor in English as a Second Language.

The first minor is for those interested in teaching English as a second language abroad or in non-public school settings.

The second is designed to meet the State of Illinois requirements to teach ESL in public schools. Anyone with a State of Illinois Teaching Certificate (Type 03, 04, 09, 10) in some subject area can add to that certificate an endorsement to teach ESL in addition to the subject area of the certificate.

Illinois has two levels of endorsement in ESL. The ESL Endorsement (lower level) requires coursework to meet five content-area requirements and practical public school teaching experience. The ENL (English as a New Language) Endorsement (higher level) includes meeting ESL Endorsement requirements and, in addition, requires the completion of two more TESL or bilingual education courses, and passing a State-administered TESL proficiency test. The Teacher Education Minor in ESL meets all the requirements for both endorsements and prepares ENL candidates for the proficiency exam. According to the No-Child-Left-Behind (NCLB) legislation, a teacher who wishes to carry full responsibility for a public school ESL class must have earned the status of 'Highly Qualified'. The ESL Endorsement does not advance the candidate to the status of 'Highly Qualified'; completion of the ENL Endorsement awards that status. (In Illinois there is no Teaching Certificate in ESL.)

Q: How do the two minors differ?

A: Actually, they are very similar in course work. While the Teacher Education Minor requires two more courses than the Minor, the main difference is that the Teacher Education Minor includes 100 clock hours of clinical experience in either an elementary school (EIL 214) or a secondary school (EIL 215). Urbana's Martin Luther Elementary School is the site of the elementary school clinical experience; Urbana Middle School and High School are the sites of the secondary school clinical experience. Linguistics has approved instructors at these sites to guide university students through the on-site experiences based on a curriculum approved by the Department of Linguistics.

The two minors also differ in that the Minor in ESL leads to a Certificate in TESL (a professional credential showing a qualification to teach ESL in non-public school settings

whether in the U.S. or abroad), while the Teacher Education in ESL leads to an ESL Endorsement and an ENL Endorsement (State recognitions that you are qualified to teach ESL in State of Illinois public schools). The ENL Endorsement requires passing a State-administered TESL proficiency test for which the coursework prepares you. (For the difference between the two endorsements, see the answer to the question above.)

Q: Do I have to declare the minor I choose?

A: Yes, the Department of Linguistics requires that you declare your minor. For this purpose, here is the form to use. You can see Randall Sadler, Program Director (information at the bottom) to sign your form.

<http://provost.illinois.edu/programs/advising/declare.html>

Q: On the declaration form, what do I put on the line for my minor?

A: This is a place to be really careful. Declare your Minor in ESL as ‘**ESL**’ - code 1198. Declare you Teacher Education Minor in ESL as ‘**TESL**’ - code 1737. If you get this right, you will have no problems later on; if you get this wrong, a lot could be required of you to get it fixed and can delay your graduation if you don’t!

Q: Where should I start with the course work for the minor?

A: Three courses are required for both minors because they are foundational. Course work should start with these three, if possible. However, none of the three is a prerequisite to other courses in the minors.

First, the best courses to take at the start is an introduction to linguistics. Since teaching English as a second language is a branch of applied linguistics, its good to know something about linguistics; Ling 100 and Ling 400 will help with that. Both are offered each semester. Check the timetable to see when they will be taught. As an alternative, if you would like to fulfill this requirement online in the summer, EIL 486 - *Linguistics for Language Teachers* - is offered in Summer 2.

Second, a general overview of the TESL field is nice way to orient yourself to the kinds of things that go under the heading of T(eaching)ESL. That is what EIL 411 is about. It also acquaints you with teaching methodologies and gives you practice with actual classroom teaching techniques.

Third, language teaching and learning methodologies and practice are based on an understanding of how learning takes places. The field is Second Language Acquisition, or SLA. An introduction to SLA is important to have from the beginning. LING 489 - *Theoretical Foundations of SLA* - fills the bill.

For the Teacher Education Minor in ESL, you should know that LING 489 has an approved substitute: Hum 471 - *Intro to Second Language Learning & Teaching*. Hum 471 involves observations in public schools, where as LING 489 does not.

Q: If I want to take Hum 471 as a substitute for LING 489 in my Teacher Education Minor in ESL, how do I get it accepted for the minor?

A: The provost has a form for just this purpose. On it you request to substitute, for example, HUM 471 for LING 489. The same form can be used to substitute another introduction to linguistics for LING 100.

The form you use to substitute a course for one prescribed by the minor is at this site:

<http://www.provost.uiuc.edu/students/advising/modification.pdf>

Q: After Ling 100 (or a substitute), EIL 411, and LING 489, what should I take?

A: After these three, you can take any of the remaining required courses in any order you wish. If you are pursuing the Teacher Education minor, it is essential that you leave the 100-hour clinical experience course (EIL 214 or EIL 215) until after you have taken the Introduction to Linguistics, EIL 411, and LING 489. The first gives you an orientation to how language pedagogy relates to the field of linguistics; the second offers some ESL teaching techniques that onsite supervising teachers expect you to have before going into the public schools; the third helps you understand what is known from research about language acquisition. Other EIL courses also provide the basics of pedagogy that can make the experience in the public school especially relevant and beneficial.

Q: Are any of the required and elective courses online?

A: Yes! The Department of Linguistics offers one EIL course online that is an approved substitute for LING 100. It is EIL 486 - *Linguistics for Language Teachers*. It is taught in Summer 2. EIL 411, EIL 422, EIL 460, EIL 487, EIL 488, and LING 489 are also online at different times. To learn more about online courses, follow this link:

<http://www.linguistics.illinois.edu/students/courses/documents/EILCoursesOnline-Master.pdf>

Q: I'm doing the Teacher Education Minor in ESL and am ready to take the course that consists of the 100-hour on-site clinical experience. What do I do?

A: Drop by to see Professor Randall Sadler, the on-campus coordinator for EIL 214 and EIL 215. His office is in the Foreign Languages Building, 3054. E-mail him for an appointment at rsadler@illinois.edu.

He will give you a form to take with you to the public school which, when signed, will allow you access to the public school while you are doing EIL 214 or EIL 215. He will also let the Director of Bilingual and Multicultural Programs in the Urbana public school know that you would like to be placed in the school system for your 100-hour on-site observation. As soon as you are placed, you will hear from your on-site supervisor of EIL 214 or EIL 215. This is the teacher with whom you will arrange your clinical hours and from whom you will receive instructions about the expectations of the course.

Q: Is there any preparation I should have before beginning the clinical experience?

A: Before starting EIL 214 or EIL 215, supervising teachers ask that you know something about teaching ESL (a survey of the subject) and some basics of what is being taught (grammar,

pronunciation). These groundwork courses are EIL 411, LING 489. And fundamental to them all is an introduction to linguistics (Ling 100 or a substitute).

Q: How should I schedule my hours at the public school?

A: If you have the course background just mentioned, then you should know that Linguistics and the on-site teacher would prefer that you arrange to observe in the public school for several hours in a row, rather than for short stints. In order to get a good idea of what students do, the classes they participate in, and the integration of ESL teaching that occurs across classes, you need to follow students during a good portion of their school day. By scheduling several hours at time in the public school, you also reduce your overhead time in traveling to and from the school.

Q: What kind of course load should I carry while doing the minor?

A: You should be aware that the 400-level courses in EIL are attended largely by graduate students who take only **three** such courses for a full-time load each semester. Each class is a lot more work than most classes at the 100-300 level. Not only are they listed at the 400 level, but they are also professional courses. That means that each one has an associated practical component which makes the course heavier than if it were only an academic course. In planning your schedule, it is best to consider each EIL course as equivalent to two strictly academic courses. So, if you have an EIL class among 5 classes you are carrying, that load is often too heavy for you to do well; it's like carrying 6 courses. Think carefully about how to distribute your EIL courses across the semesters to give yourself the best chance to do your best work. You can always talk with Randall Sadler about which courses to take. He is your official advisor for the minor after you declare your minor.

Q: If I am following the Teacher Education minor, how does the State of Illinois know that I have completed the requirements of the ESL endorsement?

A: When you have completed your on-site clinical experience course—during which you will keep a precise log of your hours at the school—the on-site supervisor will give you a letter of completion and a grade. The supervisor will sign the letter. Two other signatures are also needed on the letter. Attach your log of hours to your copy of the letter, and take your letter and log first to the on-campus coordinator, Professor Randall Sadler, for his signature. Leave a copy of the letter with him. Then take the letter to the [Council on Teacher Education](#) and give it to the Certification Officer, in Suite 203, 505 East Green Street, Urbana. Someone there will sign the letter and convey it to the Illinois State Board of Education with your applications for the ESL and ENL Endorsements, when you have completed all your course work for the minor.

Q: How do I get a grade for the work I do in EIL 214 or EIL 215?

A: The on-site supervisor will either include your grade in the letter or will email your grade to the on-campus coordinator. When the on-campus coordinator receives your grade, he will fill out the grade report accordingly.

Q: I understand that I will earn an ESL Endorsement when I complete the Teacher Education Minor in ESL. Can I also apply for a Certificate in TESL since I will have completed the required coursework for that credential, too?

A: Of course! If you anticipate teaching ESL in a non-public school setting the Certificate in TESL is what you need. ESL Endorsements are not recognized outside of a public school setting. So you should apply for the Certificate in TESL when you complete the Teacher Education Minor in ESL. Information about how to apply is contained in this document: <http://www.linguistics.illinois.edu/students/certificate/OnCampusCertificateinTESL.html>

Q: I'm really interested in going on for a Masters in TESL. How does my minor relate to the requirements for the masters here at UIUC?

A: This question requires a little longer answer. At UIUC we offer a MATESL degree. Our MATESL program has been rated by a panel of independent reviewers as one of the top 5 in the US, and one of the top 8 in the world. Like the other 240 MATESL degree programs in the US and Canada, a minimum of two years of course work (40 hours) is required.

In addition, part of the exit requirement is completion of either a comprehensive exam over the required courses or an MA thesis.

For anyone interested in the TESL profession, the MATESL degree is the pre-eminent credential in the field; it is the gold standard of preparation and is a known quantity recognized worldwide. Certificates in TESL, particularly if issued by a well-known institution, can be valuable, too. At best, they require about half of the course work and practical experience of a MATESL degree. That is why serious TESL professionals opt for a MATESL degree.

Approximately half of the 40 graduate hours needed for the MATESL degree are contained in the courses for the TESL minor, leading to a Certificate in TESL. In our MA program we always have a few students who took one of the two ESL minors as undergraduates. Their situations vary. On the one hand, some undergraduates count the 18-24 hours of course work for the ESL minor as part of the 120 hours required for their BA. When these student begin their graduate work for the MA, they do not have to re-do those courses. They still have to accumulate 40 graduate hours to graduate with an MA. But they have the luxury of replacing the courses they've already taken with electives.

On the other hand, if they have taken a lot of undergraduate hours and did not have to apply the hours of their ESL minor to their 120 hours for graduation (that is, the 18-20 hours for the minor were extra), then they can transfer up to 12 hours from their undergraduate work to their graduate work. That will shorten their MATESL degree by one semester.

Q: Who do I contact for more information?

A: Contact Professor Randall Sadler for guidance on courses to take. Speak with your on-site supervisor for help with your schedule of observations and other matters pertaining to EIL 214 or EIL 215.