

## Minors In Teaching English as a Second Language

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

- (A) *Minor in 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* 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.

[FAQ on Minors in ESL](#)

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

**Minor Code:** 1198 (declare 'ESL')

**Program Requirements (18 credit hours):** The Minor in ESL consists of six courses, three of which are required and three of which are elective, chosen from five options. Except for the introduction to linguistics, only EIL courses satisfy program requirements; no equivalencies with other courses will be considered.

Required (3)	Elective (3)
Introduction to Linguistics Ling 100 (undergraduate students only) <b>OR</b> Ling 400 <b>OR</b> EIL 486 ( <b>online</b> Summer 2) Theoretical Foundations of SLA EIL 489 (& <b>online</b> Fall 2012) Intro to TESL Methodology EIL 411	Engl Grammar for ESL Teachers EIL 422 Second Lang Reading & Writing EIL 445 Lang in Social Interaction - I EIL 456 Principles of Lang Testing EIL 460 Technology for Lang Learning EIL 487 ( <b>online</b> Fall 2012) Engl Phon & Morph for TESL EIL 488 (& <b>online</b> Spring 2013)

<http://provost.illinois.edu/ProgramsOfStudy/2011/fall/programs/graduate/linguistics.html>

**Declaring a Minor:** Undergraduate candidates pursuing the Minor in ESL must declare their minor at the beginning of course work for the minor. The form that must be completed is at <http://provost.illinois.edu/programs/advising/declare.html>.

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

**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. This is the only online course that will be accepted for the Minor in ESL. For information about this online course, please see [this listing](#).

**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 a State of Illinois ESL Endorsement)**

**Minor Code:** 1737 (declare 'TESL')

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

**Program Requirements (23 credit hours):** The Teacher Education Minor in ESL consists of six required courses and two elective courses.

Required (18)	Elective (5)
Introduction to Linguistics Ling 100 <b>OR</b> EIL 486 ( <b>online</b> Summer 2) Intro to TESL Methodology EIL 411 Engl Grammar for ESL Teachers EIL 422 Principles of Language Testing EIL 460 English Phon & Morph for TESL EIL 488 (& <b>online</b> Spring 2013) Theoretical Foundations of SLA EIL 489 (& <b>online</b> Fall 2012)	<b>Select one from:</b>  TESL in the Elementary School EIL 214 TESL in the Secondary School EIL 215  <b>Select one from:</b>  Lang in Social Interaction - I EIL 456 Culture in the Classroom CI 446

<http://courses.illinois.edu/cis/2011/fall/programs/undergrad/las/linguistics.html>

**Declaring a Minor:** Undergraduate candidates pursuing the Teacher Education Minor in ESL must declare their minor at the beginning of course work for the minor. The form that must be completed is at <http://provost.illinois.edu/programs/advising/declare.html>.

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

**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. This is the only online course that will be accepted for the Teacher Education Minor in ESL. For information about this online course, 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 ESL Minors](#) for details.

**Program Contact:**

Wayne B. Dickerson  
Program Director  
Department of Linguistics  
4080 Foreign Language Building  
707 South Mathews Avenue  
Urbana, IL 61801  
Phone: (217) 333-3563  
E-mail: [dickrson@illinois.edu](mailto:dickrson@illinois.edu)

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## FAQ on ESL Minors

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

**Q: The Programs of Study catalog at this link,**

<http://provost.illinois.edu/ProgramsOfStudy/2011/fall/programs/graduate/linguistics.html>

**describe two minors in ESL. Why two?**

**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 in some subject area can add to that certificate an endorsement or approval to teach ESL in addition to the subject area of the certificate. The Teacher Education Minor in ESL meets all the requirements for this endorsement or approval. (In Illinois there is no Teaching Certificate in ESL.)

**Q: For the Teacher Education Minor, what is the difference between an ESL endorsement and an TESL approval.**

**A:** The difference is one of when, not what. Requirements for an ESL endorsement and an ESL approval are identical. However, if you earn your credential to teach ESL in public schools *at the same time* as you earn your State of Illinois Teaching Certificate, then the State of Illinois calls this an *endorsement*. Evidence that you hold an ESL endorsement can be printed on your State of Illinois Teaching Certificate. If you earn your credential to teach ESL in public schools *after* you have already received your State of Illinois Teaching Certificate, then the State of Illinois calls this an *approval*. Evidence that you hold an ESL approval comes to you in an official letter.

**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 is the site of the secondary school clinical experience. Linguistics has approved instructors at these sites to guide university students through the on-site experiences.

The two minors also differ in that the Minor in ESL leads to a Certificate in TESL (a professional credential showing a qualification to teaching mainly adults in non-public school settings), while the Teacher Education in ESL leads to an ESL Endorsement (State recognition that you are qualified to teach ESL in State of Illinois public schools).

**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 Wayne Dickerson, 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!

**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.

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 will help with that. It's offered each semester. Check the timetable to see when it is available. 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. Currently, it is the only course that on-campus minors can take online.

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 provides actual classroom teaching experience in a supervised environment. The learners, however, are adults.

**\*\*\*Very important:** EIL 411 permits only 20 students to register - 5 undergraduates and 15 graduate students. When the five undergraduate slots are filled, Banner will tell you that the course is closed. **Don't listen to Banner!** Go to the class anyway because, on the first day, the instructor will determine how many graduate students are *actually* present. If there are fewer than fifteen, the instructor will open the extra graduate seats to undergraduates. Just let the instructor know you're interested in enrolling. So far, we have always been able to accommodate everyone.

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. EIL 489 - *Theoretical Foundations of SLA* - fills the bill.

You should know that EIL 489 has an approved substitute: Hum 471 - *Intro to Second Language Learning & Teaching*. This is a better substitute for the Teacher Education Minor in ESL than the Minor in ESL because Hum 471 involves observations in public schools, where as EIL 489 does not.

**Q: If I want to take one of the substitute courses, 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 EIL 489 or 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 EIL 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 had the Introduction to Linguistics and EIL 411. The former gives you an orientation to how language pedagogy relates to the field of linguistics; the latter offers some ESL teaching background that onsite supervising teachers expect you to have before going into the public schools. 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 EIL 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 ready to take the course that consists of the 100-hour on-site clinical observation. What do I do?**

**A:** Drop by to see Professor Wayne Dickerson, the on-campus coordinator for EIL 214 and EIL 215. His office is in the Foreign Languages Building, 3039. E-mail him for an appointment at [dickerson@illinois.edu](mailto:dickerson@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 Bicultural 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. He will get in touch with the on-site supervisor of EIL 214 or EIL 215 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, it is a very good idea to 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, 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.

**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 Wayne Dickerson 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 Wayne Dickerson, 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 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'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 180 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 for our field 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 have taken 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 Wayne Dickerson 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.

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