

ESL PROGRAM SPECIALIST CERTIFICATE

ABOUT THE PROGRAM ...

The *English as a Second Language (ESL) Program Specialist Certificate* at Point Park University is a 15-credit program that provides instruction in the areas of second language acquisition, methods of instruction for English Language Learners, literacy development, assessment of English Language Learners, and multicultural diversity. Offered primarily in a Saturday format, this program can be completed in one calendar year (three semesters). To obtain the ESL certification, students must already hold a PA instructional certificate. Graduates of the program will gain a broad scope of knowledge about English Language Learners and their unique needs, as well as a greater awareness of the national and local trends in ESL education.

COURSE WORK

The curriculum consists of the following classes:

EDUC 540	Human Diversity Issues	3 credits
EDUC 565	Second Language Acquisition	3 credits
EDUC 566	Methods for Teaching English Language Learners	3 credits
EDUC 567	Methods and Materials for English Language Learners in Content Areas	3 credits
EDUC 568	Assessment and Support for English Language Learners	3 credits
		15 credits

TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
EDUC 540 EDUC 565	EDUC 566 EDUC 567	EDUC 568
TOTAL CREDITS: 6	TOTAL CREDITS: 6	TOTAL CREDITS: 3

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

EDUC 540 Human Diversity Issues - Educators participating in this course will develop an awareness of issues related to culture and their impact on the English Language Learner. During this course, the learner will identify the impact of cultural and linguistic differences on the teaching and learning process, develop strategies for working with cultural and linguistic diversity in the classroom as well as identify personal attitudes towards multicultural education. Also, the learners will examine the socio-linguistic aspects of U.S. and world cultures, sources of cross-cultural conflict and approaches to cross-cultural resolution as they relate to the K-12 educational setting.

EDUC 565 Second Language Acquisition - Educators participating in this course will develop knowledge and skills in the structure of the English language, grammar and pronunciation including lexical, morphological, phonological and pragmatic components. The course will delve into specific issues related to English Language Learners with respect to Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS); Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (CALP); First and Second Language Acquisition (L1 and L2 acquisition); myths concerning second language acquisition, affective filters and speech/discourse patterns. The course will use the theories provided to the educators to show their relationship to the ESL students' reading, vocabulary and writing development.

EDUC 566 Methods for Teaching English Language Learners - Educators participating in this course will develop methods, strategies and resources that address the educational needs of ELLs in their learning process. Topics of instruction and application will include adapting and modifying instruction based on language proficiency, research-based instructional practices, review and evaluation of materials for English Language Learners and the use of instructional technology. Educators will develop lesson plans using levels of English proficiency and conduct action research with ESL teaching methods with ELL/non-ELL students in their classrooms.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

EDUC 567 Methods and Materials for English Language Learners in Content Areas - Educators participating in this course will develop an understanding of the supports and instructional strategies that should be in place in order to assist the English Language Learner acquire content area knowledge while moving through the stages of language acquisition. A thorough understanding of the importance of scaffolding of instruction, the Sheltered Instructional Observation Protocol (SIOP) model, Content-Based Literacy Instruction and native language support will be offered for teachers who work with ELLs in general education classrooms.

EDUC 568 Assessment and Support for English Language Learners - This course is designed to expand the participants' knowledge of effective assessment practices and support services available for ELL students. In addition to effective assessment practices; purposes for assessment, multiple assessment models, use of evaluation techniques, scaffolding of assessments and formal/informal assessment tools will be discussed. Participants will learn the availability of school support services to assist ELLs in language acquisition and content learning and ways to promote parental/family involvement with their children's educational program. Participants will gain hands-on experience in test administration, interpretation and reporting. Also, Individualized Education Plans for ELLs identified as special needs students will be discussed.

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