

TEACHING ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES CERTIFICATE

In the United States, the need for well-prepared language teachers is constant. Teachers are more likely than ever to have the opportunity to teach students who come from a variety of cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

The Department of English offers students the opportunity to obtain a certificate in teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL). This is a rigorous 12-hour/4-course graduate certificate. Normally, students are able to complete the certificate requirements within three semesters.

The graduate TESOL certificate is a rigorous academic credential that includes a focus on the structure of the English language, theories of second language learning, and approaches to classroom pedagogy. All teachers will eventually work with nonnative speakers, so all teaching concentrations—like math, history, science, and social studies—are welcome.

A TESOL certificate does not certify a graduate to teach in Nebraska public schools. Instead, it is an academic credential meant for teachers already certified in other areas, for people who plan to teach in venues other than public schools, and for anyone who works in some capacity with non-native speakers of English.

Students in teacher education or in speech/language pathology should contact the TESOL director prior to applying to this program.

Program Related Information

Program Contacts

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Program Website (<http://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences/english/academics/graduate-programs/>)

Admissions

General Application Requirements and Admission Criteria (<http://catalog.unomaha.edu/graduate/admission/>)

Application Deadlines

Spring 2026, Summer 2026, and Fall 2026: Applications for this program are accepted on a rolling basis. All materials must be submitted prior to the beginning of the semester in which the student has elected to begin coursework.

Other Requirements

- An Introduction to Linguistics course is required. Equivalent course(s) from other institutions will be considered.
- Students in the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences should meet with the TESOL director to plan a program of study.

- **English Language Proficiency:** Applicants are required to have a command of oral and written English. Those who do not hold a baccalaureate or other advanced degree from the United States, **OR** a baccalaureate or other advanced degree from a predetermined country on the waiver list, must meet the minimum language proficiency score requirement in order to be considered for admission.

- Internet-based TOEFL: 80, IELTS: 6.5, PTE: 53, Duolingo: 110
- If interested in a graduate assistantship minimum scores are as follows. Internet-based TOEFL: 100, IELTS: 7.5, PTE: 68, Duolingo: 130

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Required Course		
ENGL 8656	STRUCTURE OF ENGLISH	3
Select one of the following:		3
ENGL 8646	APPLIED LINGUISTICS	
TED 8006	SPECIAL METHODS IN THE CONTENT AREA	
Select one of the following:		3
ENGL 8626	HISTORY OF ENGLISH	
ENGL 8676	SOCIOLINGUISTICS	
Select one of the following:		3
ENGL 8020	SEMINAR: COLLEGE WRITING INSTRUCTION	
ENGL 8756	COMPOSITION THEORY & PEDAGOGY	
ENGL 8770	L2 COMPOSITION PEDAGOGY	
ENGL 8775	WRITING CENTER THEORY, PEDAGOGY, AND RESEARCH	
ENGL 8806	ENGLISH INTERNSHIP ¹	
Substitutions		
Under special circumstances, the TESOL certificate director may approve up to six hours of substitutions.		
Total Credits		12

¹ With a TESOL focus

Students are encouraged to take more than the minimum number of required courses and may not repeat any courses already taken at the undergraduate level. The linguistics faculty strongly recommends that all TESOL certificate students achieve an oral and written proficiency in a language other than English.