

So you want to teach English as a Second Language (ESL)?

Prepared by the CLAS Advising Center and the English Department

I. Teaching ESL in K-12 Contexts in Michigan

Michigan ESL Endorsement

Michigan ESL Endorsement acknowledges the special training certified teachers have that enables them to work with students whose native language is not English. In some districts, it also allows K-12 certified teachers to teach English as subject matter to students for whom English is a second language. ESL endorsement can be obtained as an add-on to an existing Michigan teaching license or it can be obtained as a teachable minor as part of initial certification. Not all universities in Michigan offer each of these options.

There are three possibilities for obtaining an ESL endorsement:

1. **Through an undergraduate program:** Some institutions in Michigan (see p.3) offer coursework that leads to ESL endorsement at the undergraduate level for elementary or secondary licensing as part of initial certification. Those institutions may also offer ESL as a teachable minor for elementary and secondary certification or as one of the “child-centered” minors, an option within the elementary comprehensive major (the CSAT program at GVSU). At this time, an ESL minor and/or ESL endorsement at the undergraduate level is not an option at GVSU. To receive ESL endorsement, candidates must pass the MTTC for ESL endorsement.
2. **Through a graduate program:** Those who already have a Michigan teaching license can enroll in a Michigan graduate program (usually 18-21 credit hours) that leads to ESL endorsement. The MTTC for ESL is also required. These programs are often part of masters programs leading to a Master of Arts (MA) or an M.Ed. in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). At GVSU, the COE and the English Department offer a joint program that leads to ESL endorsement in Michigan and to an M.Ed. TESOL. For more details on the ESL endorsement / M.Ed. TESOL at GVSU see www.gvsu.edu/english/linguistics-72.htm or <http://www.gvsu.edu/coe/grad/programs.htm?id=A061E9B8-0380-5FF0-E7F7C96AE7264196>.
3. **By direct application to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE):** Those who already have ESL endorsement or ESL certification from another state can apply directly to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) for ESL endorsement in Michigan.

More information on Teaching ESL in Michigan can be found at www.mitesol.org.

II. Teaching ESL in non K-12 Contexts in the U.S.

There are many opportunities for teaching ESL in community and business settings in the United States. Teaching in these settings does not require ESL endorsement but often requires TESOL or applied linguistics coursework along with experience. The Applied Linguistics minor at GVSU is a great way to gain an understanding of the theoretical and instructional issues in teaching and learning other languages and to prepare for teaching in non K-12 ESL contexts. The Applied Linguistics curriculum offers field placement opportunities to teach English in immigrant and refugee programs in the Grand Rapids community.

III. Teaching English Internationally

There are many opportunities to teach English throughout the world. The qualifications for teaching in international contexts vary widely, with some requiring just a strong command of the English language and others a master's degree in TESOL/Applied Linguistics. In settings such as international primary and secondary schools, U.S. teacher certification may be required. In settings such as intensive English language institutes abroad, a TESOL or TEFL certificate may be required (see below). When looking at job opportunities abroad, it is important to evaluate pay, cost of living, the number of hours of teaching, and support services. The Applied Linguistics minor at GVSU is a great way to prepare for teaching English internationally.

- **TESOL or TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) Certificates**
TESOL/TEFL certificate programs are generally short-term training courses run by commercial education companies that provide basic instruction in ESL classroom techniques for teaching English internationally. A TESOL/TEFL certificate can be acquired through online courses or through in-person training programs. There are many different websites that provide information about TESOL/TEFL certificate programs. It is important to evaluate the program content, number of hours of instruction, and program fees. Good programs generally provide student testimonials from past program participants. The applied linguistics faculty at GVSU can also provide advice about these certificate programs.

IV. ESL/TESOL Opportunities at GVSU

(1) Study Abroad in Netherlands

GVSU Faculty-led Program—English Education in Maastricht

Students have the opportunity to participate in field placements in an international primary & secondary school and a Dutch bilingual high school. In addition, students take two 3-credit courses (*ENG 365 Teaching ESL & ENG 400 Language Arts for Teachers*) that will fulfill teacher certification requirements for English education students.

(2) Study Abroad in Ghana

GVSU Faculty-led Program—Literature of the Slave Trade for Children & Adults

Students have the opportunity to participate in field placements in Ghanaian schools where English is the instructional medium and school children are ESL learners. In addition, students take two 3-credit courses (*ENG 231 Early African American Literature & ENG 334 Multi-cultural Literature for Children and Young Adults*).

(3) Study Abroad in Tanzania

GVSU Faculty-led Program—Culture, Teaching and Education

Students have the opportunity to learn from and interact with teachers and students in schools in Tanzania. In addition, students take two 3 credit courses (*MTH 386 Study Abroad Issues & MTH 496 Senior Thesis (Capstone) OR SAT 495 Capstone*).

(4) ESL Endorsement / M.Ed. TESOL

The Department of English and the College of Education jointly offer a state-approved graduate-level ESL endorsement program. The program is designed primarily for Michigan certified teachers who wish to teach or are already teaching ESL in Michigan public schools, and who need to meet the State ESL endorsement. The program requires a total of 21 credit hours, or 7 courses, offered by the Department of English and the College of Education. Once a student has satisfactorily completed the program, he or she will be eligible to apply for State endorsement. For more information, visit the website <http://www.gvsu.edu/english/linguistics-72.htm>.

(5) Applied Linguistics Minor

Students can elect a minor in Applied Linguistics offered through the English Department. The minor requires 21 hours of coursework, including 3 foundation courses, 3 English electives, and 1 cross-departmental elective. Students gain excellent undergraduate preparation for teaching English in domestic and international contexts.

Applied Linguistics Minor (21 credits)

Foundation Courses (all 3 are required)	English Electives (choose 3)	Cross-Departmental Elective (choose 1)
ENG 261 Found.of Language Study ENG 363 Applied Linguistics ENG 364 Sociolinguistics	ENG 362 History of English ENG 365 Teaching ESL ENG 366 English Grammar & Usage ENG 390 Special Topics in Language ENG 392 Language & Power ENG 461 Language & Gender ENG 465 L2 Reading & Writing ENG 467 Language Disorders & Literacy ENG 469 ESL Teaching Practicum	Please see the Applied Linguistics minor for cross-departmental electives http://www.gvsu.edu/english/linguistics-72.htm

V. ESL/TESOL at Other Institutions in Michigan

Other ESL/TESOL Programs in Michigan

Undergraduate Programs	Endorsement Programs	Graduate Programs
Andrews University ESL Minor Aquinas College ESL Minor Calvin College English (Linguistics) Major ESL Minor Cornerstone University Comprehensive Major in TESOL (elementary) TESOL – Secondary, K-12 & Minor Eastern Michigan University ESL Minor Michigan State University TESOL Minor Oakland University TESL Minor Undergraduate TESL Certification Saginaw Valley State University TESOL Certification Program ESL Minor University of Michigan – Dearborn ESL Minor (secondary) University of Michigan – Ann Arbor Linguistics Minor w/ emphasis in ESL (no teaching certification) Wayne State University ESL Minor	Cornerstone University Endorsement in TESOL Madonna University Endorsement in TESOL Oakland University ESL Endorsement Saginaw Valley State University ESL Endorsement Siena Heights University ESL Endorsement University of Michigan – Ann Arbor ESL Endorsement	Andrews University M.A. emphasis in TESOL Cornerstone University M.A. in TESOL Graduate Certification in TESOL Grand Valley State University M.Ed.in Literacy Studies emphasis in TESOL Madonna University M.A. in TESOL Michigan State University M.A. in TESOL Oakland University M.A. in Linguistics Graduate Certificate Program in TESL University of Michigan – Dearborn M.A.in Education with Endorsement in ESL Wayne State University M.Ed. with Bilingual/ Bicultural emphasis in ESL

VI. Opportunities to Teach English Abroad

A list of organizations that recruit and place teachers of English throughout the world

University of Northern Iowa

Holds overseas job placement fair every February for U.S. certified teachers and administrators; recruiters from American and international elementary & high schools. Credentials due in January.

<http://www.uni.edu/placement/overseas/>

Phone: (319) 273-2083

Email: overseas.placement@uni.edu

CIEE (Council on International Educational Exchange)—Teach Abroad

Placement organization open to students with a bachelor's and native English fluency. Placements in Chile, China, Dominican Republic, South Korea, Spain, Thailand, and Vietnam. www.ciee.org/teach

Phone: 1-800-407-8839

Email: teach@ciee.org

Footprints Recruiting

Placement organization with teaching positions in public, private, and international schools in Asia, Europe, South America, and the Middle East. <http://www.footprintsrecruiting.com/>

JET Programme— Japanese Exchange and Teaching Programme

Program run by the Japanese Embassy that places teachers in Japanese middle and high schools.

<http://www.jetprogramme.org/>

English Language Fellow Program (ELFP)--Georgetown University

Ten-month long fellowships for teaching English at academic institutions throughout the world. Must have an M.A. in Applied Linguistics/TESOL to be eligible.

www.elfellowprogram.org

English Language Fellow Program
3300 Whitehaven Street, NW, suite 1000
Washington, DC 20007
Phone:(202)687-2608
Fax:(202)687-2555
Email: info@elfellowprogram.org

Northcentral Regional Recruitment Center for EL Fellow Program (which includes Michigan)

Brian Skelton, Recruitment Center Coordinator
Fox Valley Technical College
Appleton, WI 54912

Email: skelton@fvtc.edu
Phone: 920-996-2832
Fax: 920-735-4847

U.S. Student Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) Program

Places college graduates in schools in more than 135 countries worldwide for 9-month periods; ETAs are assigned various activities to improve their students' language abilities and knowledge of the US.

http://us.fulbrightonline.org/thinking_teaching.html