

# DISCOVER

## M.A. IN TEACHING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Department of Languages and Cultures



### Program of Study

The MA in TESL (**Teaching English as a Second Language**) is an interdisciplinary graduate program administered by the departments of Languages and Cultures and English, and in collaboration with Literacy, Communicative Disorders, and various programs within the College of Education. The MA is designed primarily for those preparing to teach English to learners whose first language is not English, and for pre-certified teachers who wish to develop their field-related expertise in the area of second language teaching, curriculum design, assessment, language program development, and educational leadership and advocacy.

The Certificate in TESL (**PDE ESL Program Specialist Certificate**) is designed to qualify pre-certified teachers to teach ESL in Pennsylvania public schools, in cases where a primary teaching certification is already in place at the time of application to the program. Therefore, PDEEPS applicants should have previously student taught and earned formal (stand-alone) certification from the PDE in another area before entering this program. Applicants to PDEEPS are required to first earn Instructional I certification in an alternate subject area (e.g., K-12 Spanish or French, Secondary English, Social Studies) recognized by the PDE in order to apply for the necessary qualification for teaching ESL in the public schools in Pennsylvania.

### The Curriculum

**MA TESL candidates** take 24 core credits with 12 hours of elective credits, under advisement, which enables them to develop a field-related specialization aligned with their professional goals (e.g., adult ESL, EFL, MA programs in Languages and Cultures (MALC), subsequent doctoral work, advocacy, etc.). **MA candidates may earn the PDEEPS certificate en route to their degree.** MA TESL candidates also submit a culminating assessment portfolio and pass a required 3-hour comprehensive examination upon completion of the required coursework. Applicants without a background in linguistics will be required to take **LIN 501** (Introduction to Linguistics or the equivalent) as a program prerequisite in addition to the required eight (8) courses as below:

- **LAN 500** Methods and Materials of Research in Second Language Education
- **LAN 504** Techniques of Teaching ESL

- **LIN 540** Sociolinguistics
- **ENG 575** Structure of Modern English
- **ENG 576** Curriculum and Materials for TESOL
- **ENG 581** Teaching Reading and Writing to ESL Students
- **ENG/ LAN 583** Second Language Acquisition
- **ENG 587** ESL Practicum

**PDEEPS candidates** are required to take 18 credit hours of graduate-level coursework to develop their knowledge bases in the area of second language teaching, assessment, ESL curriculum development, sociolinguistics, and the structure of English. PDEEPS includes 60 hours of supervised field experiences as they teach on-site and interact in area ESL classrooms. There are six (6) courses in the program:

- **LIN 501** Introduction to Linguistics
- **LAN 504** Techniques of Teaching ESL
- **LIN 540** Sociolinguistics
- **ENG/ LAN 569** Teaching English Language Learners PK-12
- **ENG 575** Structure of Modern English
- **ENG 576** Curriculum and Materials for TESOL

### Admissions Requirements

In addition to meeting the general requirements for admission to a graduate program at West Chester University, applicants must document background in the following areas:

- A minimum 2.80/4.0 undergraduate GPA. Provisional acceptance may be possible under some circumstances for applicants who do not meet this standard;
- Prior "Introduction to Linguistics" coursework. MA TESL applicants who do not meet this criterion will be offered provisional admission to the program and be required to take **LIN 501** during the fall semester in order to gain full admission status;
- A broad liberal arts background with an emphasis on languages, linguistics and other social sciences is expected (e.g., background in a second language, English, linguistics, education, philosophy, communications, anthropology, sociology and/or psychology);
- Proficiency in English. Applicants whose native language is not English must submit an official report from one of the

following organizations, or complete the ESL program offered at WCU:

- TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) – applicants must score a minimum of 92 for the internet-based exam (237 for the computer-based exam, 580 for the paper-based exam); or
- IELTS (International English Language Testing Service) - applicants must receive an overall IELTS score at band 6.5 or above, and minimum scores of 6.5 for speaking, listening, reading and writing are preferred; *or*
- ELS Language Center. Completion of the ELS program substitutes for TOEFL and IELTS requirements at WCU.
- In addition — for students in the ESL Program Specialist Certificate Program — applicants whose native language is not English must submit evidence of satisfactory performance on the ACTFL English Proficiency Examination with a score of Advanced High. Information about the ACTFL test, including test dates and locations in international countries, can be obtained from [actfl.org](http://actfl.org).
- GRE scores \*are not required\* for application or admission to TESL Programs at WCU.
- Students must have all clearances completed before engaging in field experiences in public schools in Pennsylvania (field courses include **LAN 504**, **ENG/LAN 569**, **ENG 576**, and **ENG 587**).

Students who do not meet requirements upon application for admission may be admitted provisionally and, in consultation with their adviser, select additional courses in order to satisfy these requirements by the time of degree candidacy (after 12-15 credits). Please apply online at [www.wcupa.edu/grad](http://www.wcupa.edu/grad).

### For More Information

Write: Dr. Esther Smidt, Graduate Coordinator  
Department of Languages and Cultures  
230 Mitchell Hall  
West Chester University  
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-738-0410

E-mail: [csmidt@wcupa.edu](mailto:csmidt@wcupa.edu)

Web: <https://www.wcupa.edu/arts-humanities/languagesCultures/gradTESOL.aspx>

### Or contact the Office of Graduate Studies:

Write: Office of Graduate Studies  
McKelvie Hall  
102 West Rosedale Avenue  
West Chester University  
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2943

Fax: 610-436-2763

E-mail: [gradstudy@wcupa.edu](mailto:gradstudy@wcupa.edu)

Web: [www.wcupa.edu/grad](http://www.wcupa.edu/grad)

Visit: [www.facebook.com/wcupgrad](http://www.facebook.com/wcupgrad)

The Graduate Catalog is available online at <http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/>.

### About Graduate Studies

West Chester University offers high-quality graduate degrees in more than 70 disciplines or areas of study, as well as certificate and certification programs. The graduate studies program has grown remarkably since its introduction in 1960. West Chester University's program is the largest within the 14 institutions in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, enrolling more than 2,200 graduate students. Programs may be taken on a parttime basis, and most of the graduate classes are scheduled during late afternoons and evenings for the benefit of in-service teachers and other employed persons.

### About West Chester University

A comprehensive, public institution, West Chester University of Pennsylvania offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degrees, as well as certification and certificate programs, in more than 100 subject areas. As the largest member of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating to the 19th century, West Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School for the purpose of training teachers for the Commonwealth's newly established public schools. In 1960, West Chester State Teachers College expanded its programs to include liberal arts and graduate degrees and, as a result, dropped "Teachers" from its name. In 1983, West Chester State College became one of the 14 institutions in the State System of Higher Education. Along with its university status, the school acquired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs. Today, more than 16,000 graduate and undergraduate students, as well as 1,900 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus. Situated in the Borough of West Chester, the campus is a picturesque mix of Gothic, Victorian, and modern architecture with pleasant, tree-shaded walks. Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor, West Chester University is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington, Delaware. The campus is convenient to major cultural institutions, recreational activities, and commercial businesses, many of which provide internship opportunities for WCU's students.

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## OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

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