

**M.A. TESOL
Program Description
(revised 12/31/2006)**

I. ADMISSION

PLEASE NOTE: INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS NEED TO CHECK WITH THE OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS REGARDING APPLICATION DEADLINES AND ADMISSION PROCEDURES

Departmental Application Deadlines: Fall – February 1, NO WINTER ADMISSION, Spring – November 1

**Departmental Application Deadlines for Intl. Students: Fall – February 1, NO WINTER ADMISSION,
NO SPRING ADMISSION**

Requirements for admission:

The applicant for graduate study leading toward the M.A. must meet the basic requirements set out in the PSU Graduate Bulletin. To be considered for admission to graduate study, the student is expected to hold the B.A. or its equivalent with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00. **GRE IS NOT REQUIRED.** Consideration will be given to criteria such as academic excellence, relevant academic background, and experience and interest in teaching ESL/EFL. Admission will be decided by the Applied Linguistics Graduate Committee.

Procedures for admission (domestic students only, international students should check with Admissions department regarding the appropriate procedures):

- (1) All applicants must complete two application packets, one for the Office of Admissions and the other for the Department of Applied Linguistics. The packet sent to **ADMISSIONS** must include:
(Admissions Department, PO Box 751, Portland, OR 97207-0751)
 - a. the University application form
 - b. the application fee (\$50)
 - c. one official transcript from every college or university attended (except PSU)
 - d. the measles immunization form

Please check the PSU web page at www.pdx.edu for application deadlines; they might differ from the department's deadlines.

The packet sent to the **DEPARTMENT** must include:

(Department of Applied Linguistics, PO Box 751, Portland, OR 97207-0751)

- a. the Linguistics departmental application form
- b. a copy of each transcript from every college or university attended (including PSU)
- c. at least two supporting recommendations from two **previous instructors** (see specific forms)
- d. a 2-3 page statement indicating the goal and reason(s) for selecting this field as a future profession*

*Please attach a statement commenting on your background and preparation for entering the field of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), outlining your reasons for selecting this field as a future profession, describing your future goals, and explaining why the M.A. TESOL program at Portland State University is an appropriate program for achieving these goals.

- (2) Native English speakers should submit evidence of foreign language knowledge (two or more years study at college level, as indicated on a transcript, or an authorized statement if not on a transcript). Students without prior experience with a foreign language may be provisionally admitted; they will need to study a foreign language while taking other courses in the MA program.
- (3) Non-native speakers must submit evidence of proficiency in English (International TOEFL score of 600 or above or evidence of equivalent proficiency). They may also be required to take Writing 323, if the advisor deems it necessary.

II. PLANNING THE PROGRAM

Incoming students **will be assigned** an academic advisor by the department. Any member of the core faculty in Linguistics can serve as academic advisor.

The M.A. student must complete an advisor-approved program of study, taking not less than 46 term credit courses approved for graduate credit and distributed as follows:

1. Language Education/Applied Linguistics Theory (20 credits)

REQUIRED (16 credits)

LING 538: Second Language Acquisition

LING 571: Understanding the International Experience (or advisor approved alternative)

LING 577: TESOL Methods I (must be taken prior to LING 578: TESOL Methods II)

LING 578: TESOL Methods II

ELECTIVE (4 credits), choose one from the following:

LING 509: Community ESL Practicum

LING 539: Language Assessment

LING 570: Grammar for TESOL

LING 575: Curriculum Design & Materials Development

LING 510: various special topics (advisor approved)

LING 576 Corpus Linguistics in Language Teaching

LING 565 Administration of ESL/EFL Programs

2. Foundations in Language/Linguistic Theory (16 credits)

Linguistic Argumentation (4 credits), choose one from the following:

LING 511: Syntax

LING 512: Phonology

Linguistics Analysis (4 credits), choose one from the following:

LING 513: Linguistic Semantics

LING 514: Linguistic Pragmatics

LING 515: Linguistic Phonetics

LING 516: Discourse Analysis

LING 520: Historical-Comparative Linguistics

LING 510: various special topics (advisor approved)

Language and Society/Language and the Mind (8 credits), choose two from the following:

Language and Society:

LING 532: Sociolinguistics

LING 580: Bilingualism

LING 582: Pidgins & Creoles

LING 581: World Englishes

LING 510: various special topics (advisor approved)

LING 582 Pidgins and Creoles

Language and the Mind:

LING 533: Psycholinguistics

LING 537: First Language Acquisition

LING 545: Linguistics and Cognitive Science

LING 510: various special topics (advisor approved)

3. Research Design and Culminating Experience (10 credits)

LING 560: Research Design (2 credits), taken **after** 16 credits of 500-level coursework

LING 561: Research Methods (2 credits); prerequisite: LING 560; may not be taken concurrently w/ LING 560

Thesis, project or comprehensive exam: sign up with an advisor (6 credits)

TOTAL CREDITS: 46

Grammar Requirement: All students must fulfill a grammar knowledge requirement by either 1) passing the Department Grammar Test; or 2) passing LING 492: Structure of the English Language with a grade of 'B' or better.

Practice Component: 70 hours of documented tutoring, observation, and practice teaching, presented in a Portfolio (which includes other elements, such as a philosophy of teaching statement). Much of this Portfolio will be developed as part of the assignments in LING 577 and 578 (TESOL Methods I and II).

- **Important:** Courses taken under the undifferentiated grading option (Pass/No Pass) are not acceptable toward fulfilling department requirements. All courses used to satisfy the MA requirements, whether taken in the department or elsewhere, must be graded B or above.
- No later than the end of the first quarter after admission to the program, the student is required to consult with the TESOL advisor to select the appropriate courses and areas of concentration.
- Some students may be required by the terms of their admission or by their advisor to take more than the minimum 46 credits of course work for their degree. For example, students with no prior training in linguistics must take LING 390 before attempting a 500 level course. Non-native students with limited writing skills are advised to take

Writing 520 or another advisor-approved writing-intensive course before attempting a 500 level course in our department. Such courses will not count toward the MA degree.

- A maximum of 16 credits taken prior to admission can be transferred into the program. Reading and conference courses applicable toward the degree are limited to 12 credits.

III. FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT (consult the PSU Bulletin)

See attached Foreign Language Requirement information. Based on this information if you are required to take a test please contact the Foreign Language Department (393 Neuberger Hall). Non-native speakers must submit evidence of proficiency in English sufficient for admission to the MA program (International TOEFL score of 600 or above (250 computer-based), or equivalent proficiency). The TOEFL score might be used to fulfill the reading portion of the foreign language examination but an oral proficiency test still needs to be taken in the Applied Linguistics department.

IV. APPLICATION FOR THE DEGREE

Students must complete an **APPLICATION FOR THE DEGREE FORM**, to be procured from Degree Requirements office **two terms** prior to the anticipated term of graduation.

V. ADVANCEMENT TO CANDIDACY (consult the PSU Bulletin)

To be eligible for candidacy, students must hold regular degree status, have maintained a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0, and have fulfilled the foreign language requirement. Students must have an approved graduate program (GO-12) by the first week of the term of graduation. Only courses with grades B or higher (not B-) can count toward the MA degree.

Students submit one copy of the GO-12 form to the Applied Linguistics Graduate Committee together with the program planning sheet showing the distribution of course work and the topic of the thesis.

VI. THESIS (information about the PROJECT and EXAM coming soon)

In addition to satisfactory completion of course work; submission of a substantial thesis dealing with a specific aspect of TESOL is a requirement for the MA degree. The thesis is supervised by a thesis advisor selected by the student from the core or adjunct faculty in Applied Linguistics in consultation with the academic advisor. The thesis advisor and the student choose one or two additional members of the thesis committee. Research can involve empirical data that may take two or more terms to gather, analyze and write up. For research involving human subjects, the student must get approval from the Human Subjects Research Review Committee prior to data gathering.

Draft material should be presented to thesis committee members for review during the preparation of the thesis. When the oral exam is scheduled, form GO-16 should be completed and submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies, which assigns the fourth member of the committee. Two weeks prior to the oral exam, copies of the complete thesis must be given to the four members of the committee. The APA Style Manual should be used. (See Office of Graduate Studies of the deadlines for each term. Also see the PSU Style Manual for Thesis and Dissertations). **The student must allow at least two weeks after the oral exam to revise the thesis as suggested by the committee.**

The one to two hour oral examination is primarily a defense of the thesis. When the student successfully completes the oral exam and has satisfactorily revised the thesis, all members of the committee should sign the form GO-17 and submit it to the Office of Graduate Studies.

VII. TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP/RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP

Our department offers two TA positions in ESL and two in Linguistics. The ESL TAs are required to teach one ESL class per term, whereas the Linguistics TAs will assist Linguistics faculty with the TESOL Methods or the Introduction to Linguistics classes. These positions require full-time enrollment and require 15 hours per week for either teaching or research. We also offer the Nattinger Fellowship position, specific duties will be discussed with the department chair. TAs are selected by a committee comprised of the Coordinators of ESL/ENNR and members of the Applied Linguistics Graduate Committee. Besides these TA positions, our department also offers several GA positions. For more information and application materials please contact us directly at (503) 725-4098 or via e-mail at linginfo@pdx.edu. Applications should be submitted by **February 1** at the latest. The selection of candidates is made around March 15.

Portland State University
 632 SW Hall St., Rm 122 (East Hall)
 Portland, OR 97201
 503-725-4098

**DEPARTMENTAL APPLICATION
 MA:TESOL**

Name: _____ SSN/ID#: _____
 (last) (first) (middle)

Address: _____
 (number and street) (city) (state) (zip)

Phone: _____
 (home) (work)

E-mail address: _____

PROPOSED TERM OF ADMISSION: ___ Fall ___ Spring _____ Year
 (application deadlines for U.S. Residents are February 1 for Fall term, no Winter admission, and November 1 for Spring term. International students must apply for Fall Term by February; no Winter or Spring admission.)

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ATTENDED (please include a copy of transcripts from each school; minimum GPA of 3.0 is required):

Institution	City, State	Major	Degree	Dates	GPA

LANGUAGES STUDIED/LENGTH OF STUDY: _____

TOEFL SCORE (for non-native English speakers) _____ DATE _____
 (please include a copy of your TOEFL score)

NAMES OF TWO REFERENCES who will be writing recommendations for candidate:

 (Name) (Affiliation) (Relationship)

 (Name) (Affiliation) (Relationship)

Please attach a 2-3 page statement commenting on your background and preparation for entering the field of Teaching English to Speakers of other Languages (TESOL), outlining your reasons for selecting this field as a future profession, describing your future goals, and explaining why you chose the M.A. TESOL program at Portland State University.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Departmental Recommendation:

- _____ **Regular** Admission Recommended
- _____ **Conditional** Degree Recommended (list condition below)
- _____ **Admission Denied** (optional: may list reason below)

Recommendation for M.A. TESOL applicant:

Please describe in what capacity you know the candidate and how long you have known her/him. We are particularly interested in your assessment of this candidate's potential for completing a graduate degree including a master's thesis, project, or comprehensive exam and this candidate's potential as a future teacher of English to speakers of other languages. Specific areas that we would like you to address, if possible, include:

- The candidate's ability to work independently
- The candidate's ability to follow through with projects
- The candidate's writing ability
- The candidate's potential as a teacher
- The candidate's potential for future contributions to this field

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