

Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) (Online)

*Dr. Ofelia Nikolova, Interim Head, Department of Modern and Classical Languages
Room 128, West Hall*

This online certificate prepares majors from any discipline to pursue teaching opportunities with English Language Learners (ELLs) in corporate settings and in private language schools in the United States and internationally. It combines a theoretical foundation in second-language acquisition with practical experience. No previous background in linguistics is required for admission. Some background in a second language is recommended. It may be combined with any degree program.

The courses are designed to accommodate different needs and learning styles through computer-based, online instruction using synchronous and asynchronous multimedia tools: Wimba voice boards, virtual classrooms, and online social environments such as Second Life. These approaches allow for flexibility in scheduling for students. Students will be trained in using all necessary technology and supported throughout the course by faculty.

This stand-alone certificate is available for students who are not currently enrolled at Valdosta State University, subject to application and successful admission. International students must demonstrate competence in English by meeting the TOEFL score prescribed by university admissions.

Selected Educational Outcomes

Students will

1. demonstrate an understanding of how to apply second-language acquisition theories, principles, and current research in creating instructional materials and in assessing ELLs.
2. demonstrate an understanding of the role that language transfer plays in teaching and learning processes with ELLs in order to plan lessons that address possible interference between English and other languages.
3. identify suitable ESOL assessment tools, administer assessments, and develop instructional materials to address specific literacy challenges of ELLs.

Requirements for the Online Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)

Code	Title	Hours
ESOL 4010	Applied Linguistics for ESOL Teachers ¹	3
ESOL 4020	Cultural Perspectives for ESOL Teachers ¹	3
ESOL 4030	Methods and Materials for Teaching ESOL ¹	3
ESOL 4040	Assessing English Language Learners	3
ESOL 4050	Teaching English Grammar for ESOL	3
ESOL 4060	Theory and Practice in Second Language Acquisition	3
Total Hours		18

A grade of "C" or better is required in each course.

¹ Note: These three courses within the certificate fully satisfy the add-on ESOL Endorsement requirements for certified teachers in Georgia.