

Graduate Studies Programs

Master of Arts in Teaching English as a Second Language (MATESL)

About the Program

MATESL prepares its graduates to teach English as a Second Language to children and adolescents in public schools or to adults in community or college-level ESL programs. Our programs for Initial Licensure in grades Pre-K–6 or 5–12 are approved by the Massachusetts Department of Education. Our non-licensure graduates teach English as a Second Language in the United States and English as a Foreign Language abroad. The double practicum — two semesters of teaching — is a popular option for all, and many MATESL graduates stress the extended student teaching experience as key to their professional success. Applicants typically hold a bachelor's degree in one of the liberal arts or sciences, showing a course in educational psychology, and foreign language proficiency at the intermediate level.

Simmons has been successful in meeting a wide range of educational goals by providing each student with the advising necessary to develop a successful, individualized program of study. This personalized support is further enhanced by the small classes and close mentoring relationships that students develop with faculty in the program.

Competitive merit scholarships are available for the most qualified applicants. Applicants are automatically considered for scholarships; there is no separate application.

Degree Options

The MATESL Program offers two options that lead to eligibility for Initial Licensure and one non-licensure option. The non-licensure option, appropriate for teaching adult populations requires only seven courses plus either two semesters of student teaching practicum or one practicum followed by an elective. Those seeking a Massachusetts license to teach ESL to younger learners must enroll in eight to 10 courses plus either two semesters of student teaching practicum, one practicum complemented by an exploration of a special topic in the field, or an approved elective.

“As an experienced teacher who wanted to earn a master’s in Teaching English as a Second Language, I looked for a program with a reputation for high standards and personal attention. My time is precious, and as a teacher at a turning point in my career, my goal was to earn a degree that would be respected in the field. I am proud of my degree, and I am very pleased that I earned that degree at Simmons College.”

JUDY POWERS '00MATESL
ESL TEACHER, WATERTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL



SIMMONS
GRADUATE STUDIES ADMISSION

Coursework

Initial ESL Licensure, Grades 5 – 12

GEDUC 460	Teaching Strategies in the Inclusive Classroom
ML 408	Second Language Acquisition
ML 410	Introduction to Linguistics and English Grammar
TESL 445	Fundamentals of Reading and Writing in a Second Language
TESL 451	Bilingualism and Language Variation
TESL 479	TESL Methodology and Curriculum Development
GEDUC 444	Research and Evaluation in Schools
TESL 452	Advanced Seminar in TESL Curriculum
TESL 480	Student Teaching Practicum
	AND
TESL 500	Special Topics in TESL
	OR
Elective	Approved course elective
	OR
	An additional semester of TESL 480 Student Teaching Practicum

Initial Licensure, Grades PreK – 6, students complete above coursework, plus:

GEDUC 464	Reading/Language Arts for the Early Childhood and Elementary Classroom
GEDUC 467	Math for the Early Childhood and Elementary School Classroom

Students who pursue the non-licensure option enroll for a set of courses similar to the 5 – 12 licensure program but are exempted from GEDUC 460.

“I am greatly indebted to the Simmons MATESL program for not only preparing me for my first job, but for preparing me for an exciting, meaningful career in ESL. Coursework was thorough, challenging, and practical. Student teaching experiences enabled me to see a variety of ESL instructional models so that I could look for a job that suited my personal interests. The MATESL program truly trains you to be a master in your field.”

JENNIFER CARLSON '02 MATESL
ESL TEACHER, ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, MARYLAND

Contact Us

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