

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Hunter College TESOL MA Program

Where can I find information about admission requirements, program requirements, course schedules, and other information about the program?

All of the information you need in order to apply for admission is available online at the Hunter College School of Education website. You can find information on How to Apply, when the application deadlines are, how to apply for financial aid, and answers to other frequently-asked questions at each of these websites:

Hunter College School of Education

<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/school-of-education>

TESOL M.A. Program General Information:

<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/school-of-education/programs/graduate/tesol>

Academic Calendar—when the semester begins & ends

http://registrar.hunter.cuny.edu/subpages/academic_calendar.shtml

Searchable Schedule of Classes:

Go to: <http://registrar.hunter.cuny.edu/subpages/searchclass.shtml>

1. Select Year and Semester: Fall 2011
2. Select Department:
 - EDESL, BILED, and CEDCF courses are listed under: EDUCATION (Curriculum & Teaching)
 - LING courses are listed under: LINGUISTICS
 - General Ed Courses (CEDF courses) are listed under: EDUCATION (Educational Foundations)
 - Other departments' courses are listed under the name of the department that offers them.
2. Enter course code or number or professor's name if you know it
3. Click on: Search (you may need to scroll through several pages to find the course you want)
4. Click on the red Course Title in the middle: for information on times/dates/rooms/pre-requisites

College Catalogue

<http://registrar.hunter.cuny.edu/subpages/collegecatalog.shtml>

Tuition & Fees

<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/bursar/tuition-fees>

What are the requirements for each of your programs?

If you go to the TESOL Program website, you can find information on each of our programs:

<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/school-of-education/programs/graduate/tesol>

On the next page of this FAQ sheet is a complete chart of the courses required in each program:

- Program 1:** MA Program leading to K-12 certification in TESOL for people not yet certified in another area
- Program 2:** Accelerated MA Program leading to K-12 certification in TESOL for people previously certified in another area
- Program 3:** MA Program in TESOL for people interested in teaching Adult ESL (does not lead to NY State Certification)

Hunter College MA in TESOL PROGRAMS (Effective Fall 2011)

Program 1 (Code: 182.001) *Pre K-12 w/o Prior Certification*, Program 2 (Code:182.002): *Pre K-12 w/Prior Certification*, Program 3 (Code: 182.003): *Adult Track*

Course No.	Full Title	Credits	Pre K-12 Prog. 1	Pre K-12 Prog. 2	Adult Prog. 3	
EDESL 796.1	Methodology of TESOL K-12 for Students w/o Prior Certification, <i>50 hours field experience</i>	4				
EDESL 796.2	Methodology of TESOL K-12 for Students with Prior Certification <i>25 hours field experience</i>	4				
EDESL 796.3	Methodology of TESOL Adult <i>25 hours field experience</i>	4				
LING 702	Analysis & Structure of English: A Pedagogical View, <i>5 hours field experience</i>	4				
BILED 701	Foundations of Bilingual Education	4				
EDESL 770	Content, Curriculum & Materials in Adult TESOL, Program 3, <i>10 hours field exp.</i> Pre/co-req: EDESL 796	4				
EDESL 771	K-12 ESL Curriculum & Materials thru the Content Areas, Progs. 1 & 2, <i>10 hours field exp.</i> Pre/co-req: EDESL 796.1/2	4				
EDESL 772	First & Second Language, and Technological Literacy, <i>10 hours field experience.</i> Pre-req: EDESL 796.1/2, LING 702	4				
CEDCF 710	Social, Historical, Philosophical Foundations of General & Bilingual Ed: Theory & Practice. <i>5 hours field experience</i>	4				
CEDF 712	Child & Adolescent Development. <i>10 hours field experience</i>	4				
SPED 708	Teaching Students with Special Needs in Inclusive Classrooms (required for students entering the Program beginning in Fall 2011)	3				
EDESL 777	Socio-Cultural Aspects of Language & Pedagogy Pre-/co-req: LING 702	4				
LIING 774	Theory & Research in Second Language Acquisition and Learning. Pre-req: LING 702	4				
EDESL 761	Language Assessment, <i>10 hours field experience</i> Programs 1 & 2, Pre-req: LING 702, EDESL 796.1/2, EDESL 771, EDESL 772	4				
<i>Program 3 Students must complete two of the following three courses. At least one must be completed prior to taking EDESL 799 or 798:</i>						
EDESL 776	Language Assessment in Adult TESOL (Program 3) <i>10 hours field exp.</i> , Pre-req: EDESL 796.3, LING 702, EDESL 770	4				
EDESL 778	Teaching the Oral Language Skills in Adult TESOL (Program 3) Pre-req: EDESL 796.3, LING 702, EDESL 770	4				
EDESL 779	Teaching Reading & Writing Skills in Adult TESOL (Program 3) Pre-req: EDESL 796.3, LING 702, EDESL 770	4				
<i>Supervised Student Teaching/Practicum (Programs 1 & 2 require 2 full semesters, either EDESL 785 or EDESL 788)</i>						
EDESL 785	Supervised Pre-Service Student Teaching: <i>Year-long course: One semester at PreK - 6 and one semester at 7 - 12</i> Pre-reqs: Prog. 1: 24 Credits, 100 Hrs FW; Prog 2: 22 Credits, 50 Hrs FW	2				
EDESL 788	Supervised In-Service Teaching Practicum: <i>Year-long course: PreK-6 &/or 7 - 12.</i> Pre-reqs: Prog. 1: 24 Credits, 100 Hrs FW; Prog 2: 22 Credits, 50 Hrs FW	2				
EDESL 798	Student Teaching in Academic ESL (60 hours of teaching/ seminar in an Academic ESL Program) Pre-reqs: 23 Credits, 40 Hrs FW	2				
EDESL 799	Practicum in Adult ESL (60 hours of teaching/seminar in the Community Outreach Program in English) Pre-reqs: 23 Credits, 40 Hrs FW	2				
<i>Adult Program Electives: At least 4 credits from the following:</i>						
EDESL 701/702/ 703/704	Selected Topics in TESOL (May be taken more than once with different topics; Permission depends on content being offered.)	1-4				
EDESL 790	Technology in TESOL: Adult	3				
ENG 615	Rhetoric & Composition (English Dept. permission required & if space available)	3				
SEDC 711	Young Adult Literature (Dept. Chair's permission required & if space available)	3				
CEDC 717/8/9	Independent Study (Permission of Program Coordinator required.)	1-3				
<i>School of Education Writing course</i>						
<i>Pre-conditioned courses (taken within first 3 semesters)</i>						
<i>One of the following:</i>						
EDESL 760	Master's Essay (counts as elective) Pre-req: Instructor's Permission and 24 credits (Progs. 1 & 3) or 22 credits (Prog. 2). Fall start only.	4				
	Comprehensive Exam	0				
Total Credits Required for Degree (Range reflects approved transfer credits (8 credits maximum) & elective MA Essay (additional 4 credits):			41 (33-45)	33 (25-37)	36 (27-40)	

Updated 6/2011

I'm not sure which program to take—I would like to be able to teach both children and adults in the future. Which program should I apply for?

Each applicant will need to make their own decision on this. Essentially, we encourage applicants to determine which age group they TRULY wish to focus on and to take the appropriate program for that age group.

It may be helpful, though, to be aware that our Program 1 & 2 courses (for teaching children) overlap with some of the courses in our Adult Track--Program 3 (see the chart on the previous page). Beyond that, however, the programs diverge, and the coursework becomes specifically focused on issues of teaching the different age groups. Programs, teaching requirements, and teaching experiences differ significantly between ESL programs for children and adults. At the same time, it is important to be aware of how our various degrees and certifications are recognized by the field: The universally accepted standard for teaching ESL/EFL around the world is a Masters degree, and all of our regular TESOL programs (Programs 1, 2, and 3) currently lead to a Masters degree. Since there is no such thing as “certification” at the adult or college level in New York, the MA degree is what employers generally look for. If you have an MA, you would meet that basic requirement. Naturally, they will also want to know what kinds of teaching experience you have, so having experience teaching ESL at that level will be invaluable.

However, if you plan to teach children in a public school in New York, you must hold New York State teacher certification. This is only provided through our Programs 1 and 2. At the end of our Programs 1 & 2, teacher candidates qualify for Initial Certification, which entitles one to teach in a New York public school for up to 5 years. However, if a teacher wishes to earn Professional (permanent) Certification, the state requires documentation of 3 years of successful ESL teaching experience at the K-12 level, along with a Masters degree. Since graduates of Hunter’s TESOL programs already would have a Masters degree, the only other requirement they would need to meet is that of 3 years of K-12 teaching experience. Thus, if they wish to obtain Professional Certification, they will need to plan on teaching for at least 3 years successfully at the K-12 level in New York before they teach adults within the first 5 years after completing the program. If you K-12 professional certification but are not prepared to spend the minimum 3 years of teaching at the K-12 level in New York within the first 5 years after completing our program, the K-12 program is likely not the right one for you.

If I take the Adult Track (Program 3), what kinds of teaching opportunities will there be for me?

Teachers with an MA degree in teaching Adult TESOL are able to teach in a wide variety of programs: community college level ESL courses, 4-year college ESL courses in Developmental Skills or English departments, Intensive ESL Programs (IEPs) that exist on nearly every college campus, private language programs, adult ESL programs offered by community-based organizations (CBOs), various types of businesses, specialty professions (e.g., medical workers, union workers, etc.), among others.

Students in our Adult Track similarly are able to fulfill their fieldwork requirements in a wide range of types of adult ESL programs. They fulfill their Student Teaching requirement in an academic (college preparatory) ESL program, and their Practicum in the COPE program, an on-campus community-based laboratory program.

What time of day are classes held?

Most classes are held once a week—generally between Monday and Thursday, between 4:30 and 9:40 pm. Many of our students work during the daytime and attend classes in the evenings. We offer daytime courses for our full-time Daytime Cohort (Program 1) students. A few classes meet on weekend days, but we usually are able to offer weekday alternative sections of most of these classes. In the last semester of the Adult Track,

students must take a Saturday Practicum course in our COPE Program laboratory program. Alternative arrangements are made for Sabbath Observers.

Do you offer weekend classes?

Occasionally, alternative sections of multi-section courses may be offered on a Saturday or other weekend day. In all of these cases, there is also at least one section offered Mon-Thurs.

How long will it take to complete the program?

If you attend full-time, it generally takes four semesters to complete the program. If you attend part-time, it will take you proportionately longer.

How many classes may I take in a semester?

A full-time load at the graduate level is 12 credits. If one is working, we suggest taking no more than 2 classes in a semester (8 credits). Remember that graduate-level courses are far heavier than undergraduate courses. Even if you were able to take 18 credits as an undergraduate, you are not likely to be able to take more than 12 as a graduate student.

Can I take classes full-time or part-time?

Regularly matriculated students may attend either full-time or part-time. A full-time load is considered to be 3 courses (12 credits). Unlike undergraduate courses, graduate-level courses require considerably more preparation, so you will not be able to take as many credits as you may have taken as an undergraduate. A part-time load is considered to be one or more courses. Students who are receiving financial aid or who are attending Hunter College on an international student visa may have minimum credit requirements, so the decision about how many credits to take should be made with this in mind. Most of the courses in the TESOL Program are scheduled to take place after 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, except for daytime cohort courses for Program 1 and the Adult Practicum course which takes place on Saturdays. Students who work full-time are encouraged to limit themselves to taking at most two courses each semester. Some courses are offered during the summer, but not all. To find out which courses are available in the summer, see past summer schedules on the Searchable Schedule online.

Can I be exempted or waived from some courses or transfer credits from previous coursework I've taken, such as from a "TESOL Certificate" (e.g., the CELTA) program?

If you have taken previous courses that are equivalent to any of the courses in the TESOL Program, you can fill out a transfer credit form, attach your transcript, along with a catalogue description of the course and the syllabus from the course, and submit these papers to the TESOL Coordinator for review. Please note that courses considered for transfer credits must have been completed within the past five years, have a grade of B or better, and be from an accredited graduate (MA) program. Up to 8 credits of prior coursework may be transferred. Generally, courses taken as part of a "certificate" program (such as the CELTA) cannot be transferred.

How do I do fieldwork if I'm working or teaching during the daytime?

For Program 1 students, because schools ask us to send our fieldwork students only on certain days, we ask everyone to plan to do their fieldwork on one of two days--either Tues or Thurs--during school hours (usually 8:00-3:00). Which of these days one chooses is flexible, but one does need to find a way to be available one

day (usually morning) per week. Students in Programs 2 and 3 generally arrange their own fieldwork hours around their work and personal schedules.

How do I do Student Teaching or the Practicum if I'm already teaching full-time?

All of our programs have a requirement that teacher candidates must complete two semesters of either Student Teaching or Practicum (full-time--5 periods per day, Mon-Fri) teaching ESL, one semester at the K-6 level, and one semester at the Grades 7-12 level, in order to meet the New York State Education Department requirement of ESL teaching experience at each of the two age/grade levels. The difference between Student Teaching and the Practicum is that in Student Teaching, the teacher candidate is placed in the classroom of a mentor teacher—the mentor teacher is the teacher of record and the Student Teacher gradually takes over portions of the teaching of that person's classes with the guidance of the mentor teacher. In the Practicum, the teacher candidate finds a job and is hired as the teacher of record for a full-time ESL teaching position, and the mentoring experience is done in their own classroom. In both Student Teaching and Practicum experiences, teacher candidates must attend a weekly seminar at Hunter, and are observed and mentored by a supervisor from Hunter.

For people in our program who are already teaching (in private schools, or people in our Program 2 who are already certified in another subject who are teaching those subjects), in order to receive certification in ESL, it will be necessary to make arrangements to be assigned to teach ESL for these two semesters. In order to do this, teacher candidates must apply (and qualify) for an Internship Certificate, an option through which the NY State Education Department permits teachers to teach in a subject before they are certified in it. The requirements for an Internship Certificate are that one must: a) have a GPA of at least 3.2; b) have passed all of the New York State Teacher Certification Exams (the LAST, ATS-W and CST in TESOL); c) have completed all the necessary coursework such that one can demonstrate the ability to complete their certification within no more than one year; and d) obtain a letter from a principal of a school offering them a position teaching ESL full-time (5 periods/day) for one academic year. If one qualifies for an Internship Certificate, the requirement of teaching at a second level is waived. Many of our current teacher candidates who are already teaching at a school that offers ESL instruction have been able to arrange in advance with their principal to be assigned to teach ESL in place of whatever they were previously teaching for that academic year. If one is teaching at a school that does not offer ESL instruction or is unable to reassign a teacher to an ESL teaching load, it may be necessary for that teacher candidate to find an ESL teaching position at another school in order to meet this requirement. Previous teaching experience or student teaching in another subject other than ESL may not be substituted for this requirement.

Does Hunter College offer any financial aid for graduate students?

For information about financial aid options, please contact the Hunter College Financial Aid office (241 North Bldg., or at www.hunter.cuny.edu/finaid). Generally, the financial aid office requires students seeking aid to fill out a FAFSA form (also available online at the financial aid website) in order to be evaluated for the types and amounts of assistance they are eligible for. Many students do obtain financial assistance of some kind. One grant that is specifically available for teachers is the TEACH Grant; information on the details of applying, as well as the teaching commitment that it requires after graduation is available on the School of Education website.

The TESOL Program, however, regularly posts information on local ESL teaching and tutoring jobs (full-time and part-time) on its program listserv as a service for its students. All TESOL students have access to this listserv and the job openings it announces. Many of our students find work teaching ESL while attending the program; this way, their work also serves to provide them with valuable teaching experience while they are learning more about teaching.

Can I take a few courses or be admitted as a non-matriculated student into the TESOL Program?

Given the large number of applicants who meet all of our minimum requirements for admission, and the great demand for our courses by students we have accepted into our programs, we must give priority to our own fully matriculated students. As a result, at this time we are not able to permit non-matriculant registration for TESOL courses without first being accepted into the program. If you wish to take some TESOL courses, please apply for regular admission first.

Do I have to take the GRE to be considered for admission?

No, we do not require the GRE test for admission to the Masters in TESOL Program at Hunter.

Can I still apply if I haven't taken all of the pre-requisite courses (including 12 credits of foreign language)?

As long as the rest of your application is strong, you may still be considered for acceptance as long as you are not lacking more than 12 credits of pre-requisites. If you would like to have your transcript evaluated in advance to see if you are lacking any pre-requisite courses, please contact Andrew King, Coordinator of Admissions and Recruitment for the School of Education at: edadmissions@hunter.cuny.edu to arrange a transcript evaluation.

What happens if I am admitted conditionally into the TESOL Program (with requirements that I take certain undergraduate courses)?

Your conditional acceptance results because of one or more of the following:

- You have not taken all of the undergraduate coursework required by the New York State Education Department for K-12 certification.
- You have not taken (or not documented) 12 credits of a foreign language.

If you are admitted with pre-conditioned credits, these pre-requisites must be fulfilled within the first 3 semesters of study at Hunter. Any combination of foreign language credits (in different languages) may be used to meet the 12-credit requirement. If you have taken a few credits in a particular language, you may not take additional credits at the same level that you took previously—the new credits will need to be higher level courses or in a different language.

These conditioned credits are required, but will not count toward the Master's degree. Grades earned in undergraduate courses must be above a C in order to count, but are not included in the calculation of the TESOL program overall GPA. If you believe you have already taken courses that meet these conditions, please schedule an appointment to speak about this with Andrew King, Coordinator of School of Education Admissions and Recruitment (212-772-4688, in Room 1004 West). Be sure to bring with you a copy of your transcript and a catalogue description of the courses you have taken. These credits may be taken at Hunter College or any other college (including a community college), and they may also be met by taking a test in the relevant subject area through the CLEP program or other approved program (e.g., ACTFL tests).

Do you provide job placement or help TESOL Program students find teaching positions?

We provide students assistance with finding jobs in a variety of ways. First of all, we regularly post job announcements on our program listserv; many of our students have found jobs through this service. Many language programs, schools, districts, and alumni contact us to ask us to refer teachers to them to hire. We receive many requests from schools for “a Hunter-trained teacher,” because they feel that the preparation teachers receive at Hunter is strong and produces the sort of teachers they wish to hire. In addition, many of our students end up being offered jobs at schools where they conducted their fieldwork hours or their student

teaching experiences. The administrators in these schools have the opportunity to observe our students in person in their schools through these experiences, and because they are often pleased with what they see, they wish to hire them. In addition, we provide occasional resume writing, job interviewing, and various other workshops that are very helpful to our students seeking jobs. Finally, our own SPELL program, a grant-funded program teaching literacy and other skills to parents of children in the schools, hires the graduates of our own TESOL program. We see this as one way we can provide teaching experience to our own students.

Can I begin the program in the summer?

Unfortunately, no. This is because our summer term is very short and only certain courses in the program can be offered in the summer. Our introductory courses generally cannot be offered in the summer because several of them require fieldwork in public schools, and many schools do not offer summer school. Registration for newly admitted students usually takes place about two weeks before the first day of class. You'll be notified in your acceptance letter of the date for the new student orientation, which is a critical information session that we ask ALL new students to attend. During the orientation, you'll be introduced to your program advisor and be advised on how to plan your program of study and which courses to take in your first semester.

What courses do I need to take first in the program?

You should choose from the various beginning courses, depending on which program you are in, and depending on how many courses you are able to take in a semester (full-time or part-time). A list of these initial courses and a recommended order for future semesters can be found below.

Does it matter in which order I take courses in the program?

Yes. The order in which you take courses may be very important, depending upon how quickly you wish to progress through the program. A number of the courses in the program have pre- or co-requisites, so these pre-requisite courses should be taken first. The program is broadly divided into three groups of courses: beginning, mid-, and end-of-program courses. Generally, the courses should be taken in this order:

Beginning Courses

LING 702	Analysis & Structure of English
EDESL 796.1	Methodology in TESOL (Prog. 1 students only; requires 50 hrs. fieldwork)
EDESL 796.2	Methodology in TESOL (Prog. 2 students only; requires 25 hrs. fieldwork)
EDESL 796.3	Methodology in TESOL (Prog. 3 students only; requires 25 hrs. fieldwork)
CEDF 712	Child Development (Prog. 1 only)
CEDCF 710	Social Historical Foundations of Bilingual Education (Program 1 only)
BILED 701	Foundations of Bilingual Education (Program 2 only)

Mid-program Courses

EDESL 771	Curriculum & Materials across the Content Areas(Progs. 1 & 2 only; 20 hrs field exp.; Pre- or Co-req: EDESL 796.1)
EDESL 772	Second Language Literacy (Pre-req: EDESL 783, LING 701, EDC 704)
EDESL 777	Socio-Cultural Aspects of Language (Pre- or Co-req: LING 702)—
EDESL 770	Curriculum & Materials in Adult TESOL (Prog. 3 only; 20 hrs. field experience) (Pre- or co-req: EDESL 796)
EDESL 776	Assessment in Adult TESOL (Prog. 3 only; Pre-req: EDESL 796)
EDESL 778	Teaching Oral Language Skills in Adult TESOL (Prog. 3 only; Pre-req: EDESL 796)
EDESL 779	Teaching Reading & Writing in Adult TESOL (Prog. 3 only; Pre-req: EDESL 796)
EDESL 701/2/3/4	Special Topics in TESOL (different topic each semester; for Prog 3 only)

End-of-Program Courses

- LING 774 Theories of Second Language Acquisition (Pre-req: LING 702, EDESL 796)
EDESL 761 Language Assessment (Pre-req: LING 702, EDESL 796)
EDESL 799 Adult Practicum (for Program 3 only; Pre-req: 24 cred. completed)
EDESL 798 Adult Student Teaching in Academic ESL (for Program 3 only; Pre-req: 24 cred. completed)
EDESL 785/788 Supervised Student Teaching/In-Service Practicum (Progs. 1 & 2; >24 credits required)
EDESL 760 Master's Essay (> 24 cred. required) OR
M.A. Comprehensive Examination (> 24 cred. required)

The following order is recommended for students beginning each program. Start at the top of the list for whichever program you are in, and go down the list until you have the number of courses that you are able to take in a semester (taking all of the courses on the list will give you a full load):

<u>Program 1</u>	<u>Program 2</u>	<u>Program 3</u>
LING 702	LING 702	LING 702
EDESL 796.1	EDESL 796.2	EDESL 796.3
CEDCF 710	BILED 701	EDESL 770
CEDF 712	EDESL 771	Elective of your choice

(Revised 7-1-11)