

LA SALLE UNIVERSITY
Certificate
Program Specialist—English as a Second Language (ESL
Program Specialist)

Directors

Luis A. Gómez, Ph.D.

Faculty

Professors:

Associate Professors: Angerosa, Mosca,

Assistant Professors: Gómez,

Adjuncts: Enriquez-Beitler, Hargrow, Kopec,
Schreiber and Swartz

Description of Program

Using a schedule that accommodates those already employed as teachers, as well as aspiring new teachers, this program is designed to be responsive to requirements promulgated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (Division of Teacher Education—Bureau of Teacher Certification and preparation) requiring that teachers of English as a Second Language (ESL) be certified according to specific competencies set forth in the regulations.

Candidates for ESL certification will undergo a predetermined curriculum consisting of five (5) Core Courses. These courses will address in depth the areas of expertise that are required by the regulations:

- English Usage and the Development of Linguistic Awareness including: instruction on the process of first and second language acquisition, the process of literacy development for second language learners and the required strategies that will assist English Language Learners (ELLs) in the different stages of second language acquisition.
- English as a Second Language (Instructional Materials and Development), which includes the design and implementation of ESL programs to assist ELLs in the acquisition of English, and cognitive academic language skills. The student will be required to learn and be aware of various methods, strategies, research findings and resources that address the educational need of ELLs in their learning process, including the use of computer technology. The acquisition of very specific knowledge concerning currently accepted/research based ESL instructional methods and strategies designed to meet the instructional needs of ELLs will be required.
- Support Services for English Language Learners (ELLs), which provides extensive exposure to knowledge concerning effective assessment, including appropriate tools and practices, for identifying levels of language proficiency, acquisition and content learning as well as the means to monitor student progress. The student will be required to obtain extensive knowledge concerning the availability of school support services, the promotion of parental/family involvement in the accomplishment and educational needs of ELLs, as well as a complete familiarity with educational programs and instructional activity

adaptation for ELLs that require specially designed instruction pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

- Development of Cultural Awareness and Sensitivity, where students will be required to become thoroughly informed of behaviors, beliefs and attitudes of multicultural learners and families. Classroom and research activities will include the incorporation of knowledge of current methods and techniques for teaching English as a Second Language within a culturally/linguistic diverse student/family environment. Further, the student will become aware of techniques that may be employed to promote school staff's understanding and sensitivity toward cultures and languages other than the dominant culture/language in the United States.

Admission Requirements

To be accepted for admission into the program, a student must:

1. Provide evidence of successful academic achievement in completion of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution of higher education.
2. Possess a current and valid teaching certificate in some other area

or

Have completed an approved teacher preparation program and successfully passed the requisite PRAXIS exams.

3. Completed the Application for Admission on-line (free of cost) or the paper Application for Admission, together with the required Application Fee.

The Application for Admission may be obtained by contacting:

Luis A. Gómez, Ph.D.
Director

Bilingual/Bicultural Graduate Studies
La Salle University
Philadelphia, PA 19141
(215) 951- 1209
gomez@lasalle.edu

Tuition and Fees (2002-2003)

Application fee.....\$35
Tuition (per credit).....\$495
General University Fee.....\$85

Tuition Assistance

Information about financial aid and application forms may be obtained from the Director of Financial Aid, La Salle University, Philadelphia, PA 19141, (215) 951-1070

Core Course Requirements

The Certificate for Program Specialist—ESL requires a total of five courses (15 credits). All five courses are Core Courses and no elective course is available.

Course Description

BLS 600: Dynamics of Cross-Cultural Communications (3 credits)

The major objectives of this course are to develop an appreciation of diverse cultural backgrounds and to develop awareness of the complexity of cross-cultural communications. The following areas are considered as they relate to the dynamics of cross-cultural communications: the communication process; group properties and communications; linguistic approaches; the nonverbal element of communications systems, language and culture; language as social behavior; and channels of communication.

BLS 601: Techniques of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (3 credits)

The course analyzes various methodologies used in teaching English as a second language. There is an emphasis placed upon methods in teaching, listening, and speaking, as well as microteaching of difficult points of pronunciation and grammar. Significant attention is given to affective techniques in second language learning.

BLS 605: Curriculum and Development of Bilingual Programs (3 credits)

This course discusses the historical background of the bilingual movement, especially pertinent legislation, as well as the organization of a bilingual program. Topics of lectures and discussions include: needs assessment of pupils, staff and community; various types of curriculum models of bilingual and school organizations; selection of instructional materials for training bilingual students; and proper evaluative procedures.

BLS 606: Making Language Connections Through Content in ESOL and Bilingual Classrooms (3 credits)

The major objectives of the course are to provide mechanisms for second language content delivery utilizing the sheltered class model, SIOP, “learning to learn” methods. The curriculum analyzes academic language in content and texts, and discusses metacognitive processes and strategies that may be used in the classroom. Further, the role of learning styles and multiple intelligences are also examined and discussed; together with the rationale and structure of thematic units for lesson planning purposes. The integration of language objectives and “what’s difficult” for language learners is directed toward an authentic assessment of content and language.

EDC 650: Language Assessment and Special Education of ESL Learners (3 credits) Prerequisites: BLS 600 and BLS 601

This course provides an overview of federal, state and local mandates regarding the assessment of ESL learners. Placement testing, standardized assessment, performance assessment, rubrics, and portfolios will be addressed specifically. Issues in authentic assessment and assessment in the content areas will also be addressed. This course also helps students to understand the legislation that promotes individual rights for children and adults with disabilities, the special education classification and labeling process and current trends in the education of children with disabilities. Students will analyze the impact that a handicapping condition has on the individual in learning and social environments.