

Proposed New Certificate Program

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

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2019

1. Justification

The proposed certificate program in TESOL will provide a structured advanced certificate to undergraduates who plan to teach English to speakers of other languages in the United States or overseas.

2 Preliminary Needs Assessment

In the 2016-2017 academic year, there were 104 undergraduate enrollments in the four core TESOL courses. Many of these students were using the course to add the ESL endorsement to their teaching licenses. They realize that holding the ESL Endorsement increases the marketability of teachers in any discipline. School districts with large numbers of English language learners encourage all of their teachers to earn the endorsement and the Arkansas Department of Education has made improving instruction of ELLs a priority for over twenty years, evidenced by their funding of ESL Academies. This proposed advanced certificate program will build on the ESL endorsement and the current minor in TESOL, offering prospective teachers a valuable certification.

We do not have an undergraduate major to prepare students to teach English overseas, but this advanced certificate earned as a complement to any undergraduate degree will make it easier for students to find overseas positions.

3. Curriculum

The proposed degree will comprise 21 hours of courses that we regularly offer:

- ENGL 3013 Systems of Grammar
- ENGL/COMM/SPAN 3023 Introduction to Linguistics
- ENGL 4023 Second Language Acquisition
- ENGL 4703 Teaching English as a Second Language
- ENGL 4713 ESL Assessment
- ENGL 4723 Teaching People of Other Cultures

And one of the following:

- ELED 2003 Educational Research and the Teacher as a Lifelong Learner
- MLED 2003 Introduction to Education
- EDMD 3013 Integrating Instructional Technology
- ENGL 4013 History of the English Language

- ENGL 4083 Seminar in English Language
- ENGL 4733 Teaching English in the Secondary School
- SPAN 3133 Spanish-American Civilization and Culture
- SPAN 4703 Foreign Language Teaching Methods

4. Cost

The addition of the certificate program will entail no additional cost. We already offer all of the required courses and we will be able to accommodate some increase in enrollment without needing new sections.

5. Enrollment and Marketing

During the first year the certificate program is available we would expect that 5-10 students might declare it. These would likely be Elementary Education, Middle-Level Education, and Secondary Education majors as well as students from other majors who are interested in teaching overseas. As there will be no additional cost to offer the certificate program, any additional student enrollment would be revenue.

The proposed advanced certificate program in TESOL would be the only one in the state and might encourage some prospective students who are interested in teaching overseas to decide to attend Arkansas Tech.

Proposed New Certificate Program

Certificate in Spanish for Medical Interpretation

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2019

1. Justification

The proposed certificate program in Spanish for Medical Interpretation will provide a structured advanced certificate to undergraduates who plan on careers in health services and want to certify that they can work effectively with Spanish-speaking clients and patients.

2 Preliminary Needs Assessment

Health professionals in many parts of Arkansas serve populations that include numerous Spanish speakers. Health services providers need Spanish-speaking employees who know the ethical and legal responsibilities of interpretation in a medical setting and have the skill to provide timely and accurate interpretations. There is no certificate program of this sort offered in Arkansas.

In the 2011-2012 academic year, we discontinued our B.A. in Spanish for Medical Interpretation due to a lack of student demand. We realized that students wanted their primary degree to certify them as health services providers, such as nurses, not merely as interpreters, so we created the minor in Spanish for Medical Interpretation, which has grown in popularity. This spring there are eleven students enrolled in SPAN 3382 Principles of Interpretation. They are primarily Spanish-speaking nursing students. As an advanced certificate as opposed to a minor, this program would be more attractive to these future health professionals.

3. Curriculum

The proposed degree will comprise 32 hours of courses:

- SPAN 1013 and SPAN 1023 Beginning Spanish I and II
- SPAN 2013 and SPAN 2023 Intermediate Spanish I and II
- SPAN 2063 and SPAN 2073 Spanish for Medical Interpretation I and II
- SPAN 3003 and SPAN 3013 Conversation and Composition I and II
- SPAN 3213 Advanced Grammar and Usage
- SPAN 3133 Spanish-American Civilization and Culture
- SPAN 3382 Principle of Interpretation

Heritage or native Spanish speakers will be able to receive advanced placement credit for the first 12-15 hours required for the certificate, making it possible for Spanish-speaking

nursing students to add this valuable certificate to their degree by enrolling in as few as 17 hours. Spanish majors could add this certificate by enrolling in 8 extra hours.

Three of the required courses – SPAN 2063, SPAN 2073, and SPAN 3382 – are specific to this certificate, but the other courses are regularly offered as part of our Spanish and Spanish Education degrees.

4. Cost

The addition of the certificate program should entail no additional cost beyond the possible need to pay for one or two course overloads (\$2,100-\$4,200) if there is unexpected demand. We already have the capability to offer all of the required courses and we will be able to accommodate some increase in enrollment without needing new sections.

5. Enrollment and Marketing

During the first year the certificate program is available we would expect that 5-8 students might declare it. These would likely be Spanish-speaking nursing majors who see the value of adding this certificate to their nursing licenses. There might also be some Spanish majors who would decide to add this certificate. As there will be no additional cost to offer the certificate program unless there was unexpectedly large student demand, any additional student enrollment would be revenue.

The proposed advanced certificate program in Spanish for Medical Interpretation would be the only one in the state. Although our nursing program has no need to attract additional students, the addition of this certificate would underscore Arkansas Tech's commitment to serving the educational needs of Spanish-speaking students.