



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL)

Announcement and Application for 2017 ESOL GRADUATE ACADEMY

TO: ESOL COORDINATORS/ESOL TEACHERS/PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATORS WHO WORK WITH LANGUAGE MINORITY STUDENTS (English Learners [ELs] and Fluent English Proficient students [FEPs])

Application deadline: Friday, March 31, 2017

Note: Applications received after the deadline will be added to a waitlist.

The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), Programs for Language Minority Students, in partnership with Arkansas Tech University (ATU) and the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, has planned intensive graduate instruction for classroom teachers grades PK - 12 and all subject areas who are interested in learning about teaching students with primary home languages other than English. Applicants must be working with English learners in the classroom on a consistent basis.

The ten-day Academy will focus on the areas of second language acquisition, ESOL methodology, assessment of English Learner (EL) students, and working with students from diverse cultures, as well as on the application of ESOL teaching skills to the Arkansas Academic Standards. **The daily hours of each face-face session are 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. with two meals plus snacks provided.** All of the assignments are designed for classroom teachers who have English learners.

Upon successful completion of the ESOL Graduate Academy, including attendance/participation in 10 face-face days and completed assignments for the four courses on Blackboard through Arkansas Tech University or the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, teachers will be awarded twelve hours of graduate credit. These credits and a passing score on ESL Praxis 5362 will meet ADE's requirements for the ESOL endorsement. The intensive and focused instruction and assignments teachers receive from this experience (along with support from the university instructors) will provide them with the knowledge and skills to pass the ESL Praxis.

The ESOL Graduate Academy will pay for all materials and tuition. Arkansas Tech University will conduct the ESOL Academies and issue the credit hours for one Russellville and two Little Rock sites. The University of Arkansas at Fayetteville will issue the credit hours for one Little Rock and two Springdale sites. Lodging for the six-day summer sessions will be available at the June 17 -24 session in both Russellville and Little Rock for teachers driving more than an hour one way. Other costs covered by the Academy include lodging where applicable and all food during the duration of the face-face classes. All applicants accepted will be required to pay the application fee of \$40 and the fee to take the ESL Praxis in spring 2018. The cost of the Praxis is about \$125. Teachers will be required to have some type of laptop or tablet for the

Academy. All handouts will be electronic for the 2017 Academy.

Participants will assume all transportation expenses to and from the Academy site.

There are four (4) content face-face days throughout the school year. These are scheduled for one (1) Friday and three (3) Saturdays for five (5) of the cohorts and one (1) Sunday and three (3) Saturdays for one (1) of the cohorts for ESOL Academy 2017.

A	I will take one personal day for one Friday in the fall. (Sept. 8, 15, or 22)
B	I am okay with one Sunday in lieu of one Friday and agree to the Russellville site which will be Saturday and Sunday. The summer dates for this session are June 19 -24.

Once a teacher has been accepted, emailed the Acceptance/Confirmation letter, and Confirmation has been returned to the ESOL Academy Facilitator; a form will be emailed to principals asking for three items to be confirmed. 1) If the teacher is in a cohort describe in A above, he/she will be able to attend on the one Friday that is assigned to that cohort. 2) The teacher holds a current Arkansas Teaching License. 3) The teacher will have a contract to teach in a certified position for 2017-18.

Criteria for Selection to the 2017 ESOL Graduate Academy

Acceptance to the 2017 ESOL Graduate Academy will be limited. Teachers are urged to apply as early as possible. Criteria for selection will include the need for ESOL services in a teacher's school district, as reflected in the teacher's application, as well as the need to balance participation by geographic region of the state, district size, number of EL enrollment, and the applicant's role within the school. In order to qualify for consideration, applicants must be licensed and employed full-time in an Arkansas public school. They need not have been employed during the 2016-2017 school year if they have received confirmation of a contract for the 2017-2018 school year. Districts will be contacted to confirm a teacher's employment status.

1. Application for Selection to 2017 ESOL Graduate Academy

All teachers applying for the 2017 ESOL Graduate Academy must complete and submit an online application found at the link provided below in this section. Applicants will have an opportunity to indicate a 1st and 2nd site choice. The curriculum, instruction, and assessment for both universities will be identical. Each site will be limited to 50 participants. We will try to assign applicants to the Academy closest to their homes. If space is not available at that site, applicants will be assigned to another Academy site wherever space is available. Applicants who are assigned to an alternate site will be notified via email with an opportunity to have input. There is a detailed description of the dates and locations for six (6) cohorts of participants on page four (4) of this announcement.

The link for everyone to apply for the 2017 ESOL Graduate Academy is:

<http://www.atu.edu/eslacademy>

After submitting the online application, teachers will receive an automated e-mail within one week confirming their successful submission. The ESOL Facilitator will provide applicants with an expected timeline for the process from this point on – from submitting an application to the Academy, being accepted to the Academy, confirming your acceptance, to being admitted into the graduate college at either Arkansas Tech University or the University of Arkansas.

Notification of acceptance will be made no later than April 10, 2017. This notification will include an Acceptance and Confirmation letter which must be returned no later than April 17, 2017. This letter will contain some questions to answer and some choices to be made. It will be a Word document so applicants should save it before typing in the requested information. Applicants must email this form back to the ESOL Academy Facilitator. Once the Confirmation form is received, applicants will receive a link that will be specific to the university designated to award credit for the site for which the applicant is assigned.

2. Application to Graduate College

Once applicants are accepted and participation confirmed, they are provided instructions for admission to their assigned university as a non-degree seeking students. The universities have made every effort to streamline admission procedures by eliminating some of the paperwork required of degree seeking students. Each has a few different requirements. Once admitted, the applicant becomes a participant/graduate student. The ESOL Academy Facilitator will stay in contact with applicants/participants from the beginning to the end of this process.

Applicants do not need to submit a transcript, however they will need to submit an affidavit for non-degree seeking graduate students at the U of A. The ESOL Academy Facilitator will contact school district personnel to verify current teaching license and status of employment.

ADE ESOL Endorsement Requirements

In accepting this ADE stipend for 12 graduate college hours, you are agreeing to complete all assignments satisfactorily, pass the ESL Praxis, and obtain your ESOL Endorsement. Once selected, confirmed, and admitted, participants **must** complete all requirements for ADE's ESOL endorsement. Because of the contact-hours requirement for graduate credit, participants must attend all sessions during the Academy, a six-day summer session and four weekend days – **three** (3) during the fall of 2017 and **one** (1) during the spring of 2018. Specific dates are reflected on page four (4) of this Announcement. **This will be an intensive, demanding ten days plus online work to equal approximately 180 hours (i.e., 45 hours per course.) There will be four modules to be completed at different intervals. All participating teachers will be required to do all assignments via Blackboard within a specific timeline. Instructions for using Blackboard will be provided throughout the six-day summer session. Each cohort of teachers will be assigned to an instructor of record who will be on site during their assigned sessions. All of the Blackboard assignments will be reviewed with teachers in the June session. Instructors will stay in contact with their cohort of teachers throughout the year-long process.**

The following table shows the cohort options. We are committed to keeping our numbers at each site to 50 unless we have to adjust this. Just make sure that you check a 2nd choice provided to you when you apply to the Academy.

Cohort	Dates for 10 days	Site/location	IHE	Curriculum
Cohort 1	June 5-10	Little Rock	ATU	All areas of the 4 courses presented by 4 national speakers and instructor of record, Judy Hobson
	Sept. 15			Planning and Implementing Instruction for English Learners with appropriate assessment embedded.
	Sept. 16			Laws and Programming for ELs
	Oct. 14			Follow-up for Planning and implementing for English learners
	Jan. 6			ESL Praxis Review and Practice
Cohort 2	June 5-10	Springdale	UAF	All areas of the 4 courses presented by 4 national speakers and instructor of record, Dr. Janet Penner-Williams
	Sept. 8			Planning and Implementing Instruction for English Learners with appropriate assessment embedded.
	Sept. 9			Laws and Programming for ELs
	Oct. 14			Follow-up for Planning and implementing for English learners
	Jan. 13			ESL Praxis Review and Practice
Cohort 3	Jun 12-17	Little Rock	ATU	All areas of the 4 courses presented by 4 national speakers and instructor of records, Dr. Ursula Chandler
	Sept. 8			Planning and Implementing Instruction for English Learners with appropriate assessment embedded
	Sept. 9			Laws and Programming for ELs
	Oct. 21			Follow-up for Planning and implementing for English learners
	Jan. 20			ESL Praxis Review and Practice
Cohort 4	Jun 12-17	Springdale	UAF	All areas of the 4 courses presented by 4 national speakers and instructor of record, Dr. Mary Bridgforth
	Sept. 15			Planning and Implementing Instruction for English Learners with appropriate assessment embedded
	Sept. 16			Laws and Programming for
	Oct. 21			Follow-up for Planning and implementing for English learners
	Feb. 3			ESL Praxis Review and Practice
Cohort 5	June 19-24	Russellville	ATU	All areas of the 4 courses presented by 4 national speakers and instructor of record, Dr. Ursula Chandler
	Sept. 23			Planning and Implementing Instruction for English Learners with appropriate assessment embedded.
	Sept. 24			Laws and Programming for ELs
	Oct. 28			Follow-up for Planning and implementing for English learners
	Feb. 10			ESL Praxis Review and Practice
Cohort 6	June 19-24	Little Rock	UAF	All areas of the 4 courses presented by 4 national speakers and instructor of record, Jaime Miller
	Sept. 22			Planning and Implementing Instruction for English Learners with appropriate assessment embedded
	Sept. 23			Laws and Programming for ELs
	Oct. 28			Follow-up for Planning and implementing for English learners
	Feb. 17			ESL Praxis Review and Practice

Please keep a copy of this announcement so that you can refer to it as needed.

For general information concerning the ESOL Academy 2017, you may direct questions to:

Judy Hobson, email eslajudy@gmail.com or (479) 530-2846 (text or voice)

Please share this application with interested colleagues.