

## Admissions

In addition to meeting the general requirements for admission to a graduate program at West Chester, applicants must document background in the following areas:

- (1) A minimum 2.80/4.0 undergraduate GPA. Provisional acceptance may be possible under some circumstances for applicants who do not meet this standard;
- (2) Prior "Introduction to Linguistics" coursework. Applicants who do not meet this criterion will be offered provisional admission to the program and be required to take LIN 501 during the fall semester in order to gain full admission status;
- (3) A broad liberal arts background with an emphasis on languages, linguistics and other social sciences is expected, e.g., background in a second language, English, linguistics, education, philosophy, communications, anthropology, sociology and/or psychology;
- (4) Proficiency in English. Applicants whose native language is not English must submit an official report from one of the following organizations:
  - *TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)* - applicants must score a minimum of 580 (218 for the computer-based exam); or
  - *IELTS (International English Language Testing Service)* - applicants must receive an overall IELTS score at band 6.5 or above, and minimum scores of 6.5 for speaking, listening, reading and writing are preferred; or
  - *INTERLINK Language Center*. Completion of the INTERLINK program substitutes for TOEFL and IELTS requirements at West Chester University.*In addition, for students in the ESL Program Specialist Certificate Program, applicants whose native language is not English must submit evidence of satisfactory performance on the ACTFL English Proficiency Examination, with a score of Advanced High. Information about the ACTFL test, including test dates and locations in international countries, can be obtained from the [actfl.org](http://actfl.org)*
- (5) GRE scores \*are not required\* for application or admission to TESOL Programs at WCU.
- (6) Students who do not meet requirements upon application for admission may be admitted provisionally and, in consultation with their adviser, will select additional courses in order to satisfy these requirements by the time of degree candidacy (after 12-15 credits).
- (7) All students who are US citizens must have all clearances completed before starting any courses which involve field experiences in public schools in Pennsylvania, including LAN 503, ENG/LAN 569, ENG 576, and ENG 587.

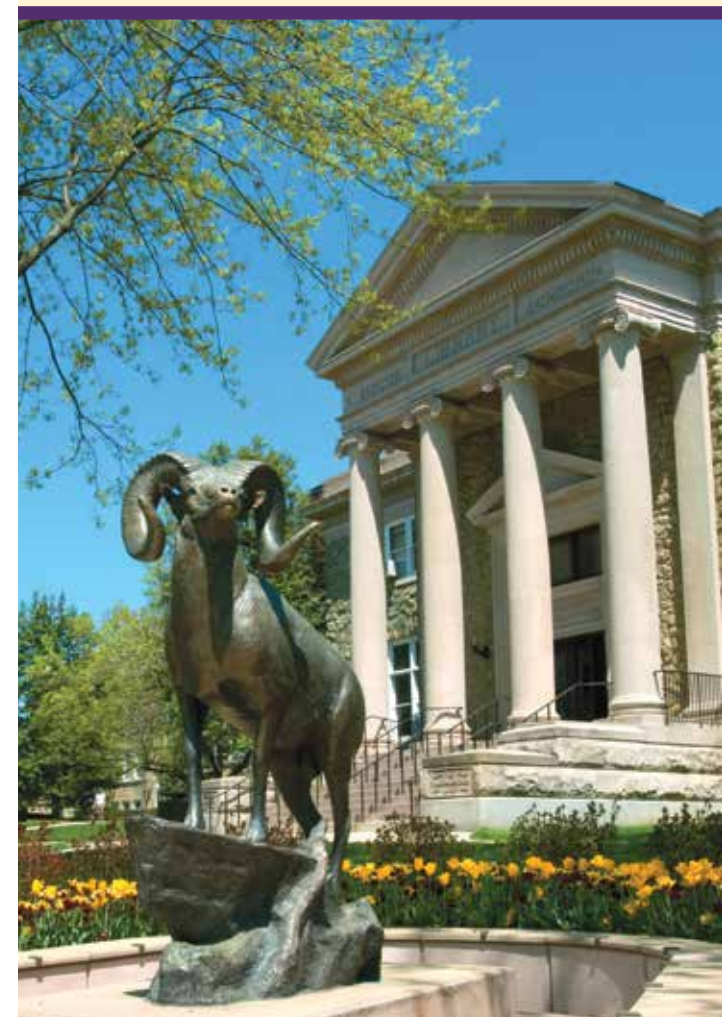
*The Mission of TESOL programs at West Chester University is to educate and prepare candidates so that they are knowledgeable in the factors and issues which inform second language education, are highly capable instructors of English as a Second Language for a variety of learners in a variety of contexts, especially public schools PK-12, and have the skills necessary to function as effective language and literacy educators and community leaders among diverse populations both within the U.S. and abroad.*



For further information, please contact:  
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# TESOL Programs at West Chester University



## Program Descriptions

*The Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (MA TESOL) is an interdisciplinary graduate program administered by the departments of Languages and Cultures and English, and in collaboration with Literacy, Communicative Disorders, and various programs within the College of Education. The MA is primarily designed for those preparing to teach English to learners whose first language is not English, and for pre-certified teachers who wish to develop their field-related expertise in the area of second language teaching, curriculum design, assessment, language program development, and educational leadership and advocacy.*

*The PDE ESL Program Specialist Certificate (PDEEPS) is designed to qualify pre-certified teachers to teach ESL in PA public schools, in cases where a primary teaching certification is already in place at the time of application to the program. Therefore, PDEEPS applicants should have previously student taught and earned formal (stand-alone) certification from the PDE in another area before entering this program. Applicants to PDEEPS are required to first earn Instructional I certification in an alternate subject area (e.g., K-12 Spanish or French, Secondary English, Social Studies) recognized by the PDE in order to apply for the necessary qualification for teaching ESL in the public schools in Pennsylvania.*



## Program Requirements

### MA in TESOL

MA TESOL candidates take 24 core credits with 12 hours of elective credits, under advisement, which enables them to develop a field-related specialization aligned with their professional goals (e.g., adult ESL, EFL, subsequent doctoral work, advocacy, etc.). MA candidates may earn the PDEEPS certificate en route to their degree. MA TESOL candidates also submit a culminating assessment portfolio and sit for a required 3-hour comprehensive examination upon completion of the required coursework.

Applicants without a background in linguistics will be required to take LIN 501 (Introduction to Linguistics) as a program pre-requisite in addition to the following eight (8) courses in order to complete requirements of the MA degree:

- LAN 500 (Methods and Materials of Research in Second Language Education)
- LAN 503 (Techniques of Second Language Teaching)
- LIN 540 (Sociolinguistics)
- ENG 575 (Structure of Modern English)
- ENG 576 (Curriculum and Materials for TESOL)
- ENG 581 (Teaching Reading and Writing to ESL Students)
- ENG/LAN 583 (Second Language Acquisition)
- ENG 587 (ESL Practicum)

### PDE ESL Program Specialist Certificate

ESL Program Specialist Certificate candidates are required to take 18 credit hours of graduate-level coursework to develop their knowledge bases in the area of second language (L2) teaching, assessment, ESL curriculum development, sociolinguistics and the structure of English. PDEEPS includes 60 hours of supervised field experiences, in which candidates are observed, mentored and critiqued by university faculty as they teach on-site and interact in area ESL classrooms.

Applicants without a background in linguistics will be required to take LIN 501 (Introduction to Linguistics) as a program pre-requisite in addition to the following six (6) courses in order to complete PDEEPS requirements:

- LAN 500 (Methods and Materials of Research in Second Language Education)
- LAN 503 (Techniques of Second Language Teaching)
- LIN 540 (Sociolinguistics)
- ENG/LAN 569 (Teaching English Language Learners PK-12)
- ENG 575 (Structure of Modern English)
- ENG 576 (Curriculum and Materials for TESOL)