

The UAF Faculty Senate passed the following at Meeting #204 on February 2, 2015:

MOTION:

The UAF Faculty Senate moves to approve a new minor in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), housed in the CLA Department of Linguistics.

Effective: Fall 2015

Rationale: This new minor will effectively prepare students for careers in English as a second language (ESL) teaching in the U.S. and abroad. See the program proposal #18-UNP on file in the Governance Office, 312B Signers' Hall.



President, UAF Faculty Senate

APPROVAL: _____


Chancellor's Office

DATE: _____

2/3/15

DISAPPROVED: _____

Chancellor's Office

DATE: _____

Overview:

The Minor in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) prepares students for short- and long-term careers in English as a second language (ESL) teaching in the U.S. and abroad. In the minor, coursework in the fundamentals of language, theories of second language learning, and teaching methodology are combined with practical tutoring and instructional work with ESL learners to provide a broad yet practical foundation for future teaching.

Proposed Minor Requirements:

Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages Minor

The minor in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) will provide students with a theoretical and practical foundation for the teaching of English as second language in the United States or as a foreign language in other countries. The curriculum will benefit students in Foreign Languages, Linguistics, English, Education, and other fields of study who are interested in short- or long-term employment in the field TESOL.

1. Complete the following*:

LING F101 – Nature of Language – 3 credits

LING F200 – The Field of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages – 1 credit

LING F302 – Second Language Acquisition – 3 credits

LING F315 – The English Language for Second Language Teaching – 3 credits

LING F410 – Theory and Methods of Second Language Teaching – 3 credits

LING F451 – English Second Language Teaching Practicum – 3 credits

2. Minimum credits required—16 credits

Note: 400-level courses require junior standing or instructor permission.

*Students must earn a C- grade or better in every course except for LING F200, which is offered on a pass-fail basis.

Relationship to Purposes of the University:

The proposed minor will help UAF meet its mission to enrich the lives of Alaskan students by preparing them for practical short- and long-term career opportunities in English second language teaching that will help them engage with and learn from English language learners around the world.

Projected enrollments & public demand for the minor:

We estimate that ten to fifteen UAF undergraduates will be enrolled in the minor during each of the first two to three years of its offering. These enrollments are expected to climb in subsequent years through word of mouth and adviser recommendations.

Estimated enrollment figures are based on two sources of information from students: 1) the large number of UAF graduates who pursue short- or long-term positions teaching English as a second language overseas or in the U.S., and 2) the results of written surveys of UAF undergraduates taking upper-division courses in Linguistics, Education, and English during the spring 2014 semester. Details of this student interest are as follows:

- 1) The UAF Department of Foreign Languages reports that since 2005, 43 of its graduates have taught English as a foreign language (EFL) overseas shortly after graduation. The majority of these graduates majored in Japanese or Spanish.
- 2) A survey of UAF students (N=63) in several upper-division Linguistics, Education, and English

courses reported a strong interest in the field of teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL) and the proposed minor.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Maybe</u>
<i>Interest in TESOL</i>	28	10	25
<i>Would consider minor</i>	24	15	21

Although UAF has a strong record of placing its graduates in EFL teaching situations, the increasingly professionalized field of TESOL has put a premium on theoretical, methodological, and practical training for new instructors. Students graduating with the Minor in TESOL will have a competitive advantage on the job market for this reason. In addition, the training they receive in the minor will provide them with the confidence and practical resources they will need to succeed during their challenging first few years of teaching.

Support of other programs by the minor's creation:

The minor's creation would most directly support the Linguistics Program through increased undergraduate enrollments in its courses. In addition, students majoring in Linguistics, Foreign Languages and Literatures, Education, and English would receive support through the creation of a minor that enhances their future job prospects in the field of English second language teaching.