



Item: AS: A-1

Tuesday, May 26, 2009

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF NEW MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE**

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Approval of new Master of Arts Degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages and Bilingual Education

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Master of Arts degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages and Bilingual Education (MATESOL/BE) is designed to prepare students for employment as ESOL teachers and trainers in a variety of settings (K-12 programs, higher education, overseas), as well as bilingual education program directors, trainers, and consultants. A legal settlement reached in 1990 requires all Florida classroom teachers who teach language arts to become endorsed in ESOL.

While the overall population of school-aged children in Florida has decreased by 10% in the last 10 years, the population of school-aged English learners (ELs) has increased by nearly 100%. The families of these children come from non-English speaking areas; Florida's limited-English proficient children represent 220 different languages. EL children in Florida still suffer from low test scores, grade retention, and high drop out rates, especially in the six counties served by FAU. ESOL has been found by the research to be necessary but not sufficient for helping English learners achieve academically and linguistically. This new degree program will specifically prepare students to teach minority children and adults and bilingual education and address the critical need for teachers and administrators in this area.

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE**

Fall 2009

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The FAU College of Education has been awarded a 1.5 million dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Education to develop this program, cover some of the faculty salary costs, and provide tuition funding for 12 full-time students. The U.S. Department of Education has a 40 year history of providing funding for ESOL and BE training, because of the critical national

need. It is anticipated that this need and these grants will continue and that FAU will be able to compete favorably for continued funding.

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**Supporting Documentation:**

**Executive Summary of Program Details**

**Presented by: Interim College of Education Dean, Valerie Bristol**

**Phone: 561-297-3357**

# **M.A. IN TEACHING ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES AND BILINGUAL EDUCATION (MATESOL/BE)**

## **Executive Summary**

**Submitted by:  
Dept. of Curriculum, Culture, and Educational Inquiry  
College of Education**

### **Need for the Program**

English learners (ELs) do not know English well because their families come from non-English-speaking areas. According to the Urban Institute, Florida ranks third after California and Texas in numbers of ELs. During the past 10 years, while the overall population of school-aged children in the state of Florida *decreased* by more than 10%, the population of school-aged ELs *increased* by nearly 100%. Despite a legal settlement reached in 1990 requiring all Florida classroom teachers who teach language arts to become endorsed in ESOL, EL children in Florida still suffer from low test scores, grade retention, and school dropout, especially in the six counties served by FAU. As an example, the dropout rate for EL students in Palm Beach County is an alarming 77 percent. ELs fare poorly because of the severe shortage of ESOL and bilingual teachers, the unavailability of programs to support schools that use a bilingual approach, the unavailability of advanced ESOL/BE-related coursework for school administrators, and the severe shortage of university teacher-trainers with ESOL/BE training. Indeed, over 40% of Florida's ESOL teachers are teaching out-of-field (without appropriate training), the highest percentage of non-certified teachers in the State.

The accepted terminal degree for ESOL and Bilingual teachers in the US (and worldwide) is the MATESOL/BE. There are approximately 200 MATESOL programs in the U.S. Yet, despite the critical need for teachers and administrators with expertise in TESOL and Bilingual Education in South Florida, there is *no* state university in South Florida with an MATESOL/BE program to address those needs.

### **Program Overview**

The proposed MATESOL/BE program at FAU is designed to prepare students for jobs as elementary, middle, high school, and adult education ESOL teachers; higher education ESL (English as a second language) instructors (intensive and non-intensive); EFL (English as a foreign language) instructors overseas; intensive English program directors; ESOL/ ESL/ EFL/ bilingual education teacher trainers; K-12 ESOL/bilingual education program directors; elementary and middle grade bilingual/dual language teachers; and ESOL/bilingual education consultants (accent reduction coaches, ESL/ESOL/EFL textbook reviewers and writers, workshop facilitators, proposal writers, and bilingual education program evaluators). Program graduates will also have educational opportunities to enter specialist and

doctoral programs in a variety of fields associated with colleges of education and liberal arts: TESOL, Bilingual Education, Second/Foreign Language Education, Applied Linguistics, and Curriculum and Instruction.

Admission requirements for the MATESOL/BE program are the same as those for all other previously approved graduate programs in the CCEI department; however the MATESOL/BE has added a foreign language requirement that must be met before program completion. The MATESOL/BE degree is a 36-credit hour program with 12 required courses. Although there is no thesis requirement, there is a culminating practicum course that requires students to apply the knowledge and skills from the other 11 courses to a major professional project and portfolio. It is anticipated that full-time students will need two years (or four semesters) to complete the program. The 12 courses below are the required courses.

|   |   |                          |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| TSL 5142 Curriculum Development in TESOL and Bilingual Education            | } | Any semester             |
| TSL 5345 Methods of TESOL and Bilingual Education                           |   |                          |
| TSL 5440 Assessment Issues for ESOL and Bilingual Populations               |   |                          |
| EDG 5705 Multicultural Education Seminar                                    |   |                          |
| STA 6113 Educational Statistics   |   |                          |
| EDF 6481 Educational Research   |   |                          |
| TSL 6350 Pedagogical Grammar for English for ESOL and Bilingual Populations | } | 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester |
| TSL 6365 Teaching Pronunciation in English for ESOL and Bilingual Programs  |   |                          |
| TSL 6165 Language Policy and Planning in Education                          | } | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester |
| TSL 6055 Theories of TESOL and Bilingual Education                          |   |                          |
| TSL 6146 Developing Literacy for ESOL and Bilingual Populations             | ] | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Semester |
| TSL 6944 TESOL/Bilingual Education Practicum                                | ] | 4 <sup>th</sup> Semester |

Correlation with State and University Goals

The proposed Master of Arts in TESOL/Bilingual Education supports both the shared SUS and the distinct institutional FAU missions. The focus of the shared SUS mission is “to serve the needs of a diverse state through excellence in teaching, research and public service.” The focus of FAU’s mission is, “... serving a uniquely diverse community. It promotes academic and personal development, discovery, and lifelong learning. FAU fulfills its mission through excellence and innovation in teaching, outstanding research and creative activities, public engagement and distinctive scientific and cultural alliances, all within an environment that fosters inclusiveness.”

The proposed Master of Arts in TESOL/Bilingual Education supports both missions in the following ways:

- It is the only masters degree program at FAU specifically dedicated to preparing teachers to serve language minority populations, clear evidence that the proposed program will excel at addressing both state and local missions associated with serving the *diverse* communities that help define our local area and state.
- By including a bilingual education component in each of the nine specialization courses, it will attract bilingual language minority teachers and teacher candidates and help fulfill local and state goals related to *diversity* and *inclusiveness*.
- By building in the ESOL endorsement and certification, it will serve the needs of the public schools in the local community and state.
- The practicum course is specifically designed to require students to apply concepts and practice techniques through supervised community *service* educational activities.
- Built into the specialization courses are emphases on building skills and attitudes to support *lifelong learning*.
- The specialization courses foster *excellence* and both *academic and personal development* through their no-nonsense insistence on making educational decisions related to both policy and practice based on scientifically based research and not on emotion or politics.
- The specialization courses contain a strong emphasis on fostering *parent and community relations*.
- Its graduates will strengthen the pool of part-time adjuncts who teach undergraduate ESOL courses at FAU, contributing to the mission of “excellence in teaching.”
- Its design is based on input from focus groups with experts from top universities with distinctive MATESOL programs as well as surveys of local school administrators and teachers, contributing again to the mission of “excellence.”

### Distinctive Qualities

FAU’s MATESOL/BE program combines world-class excellence with meeting local, state, and national needs for more ESOL and bilingual teachers. Currently, there are 91 non-degree students seeking ESOL endorsement through FAU’s federally funded TESOL Professional Development Program (TESOL PDP). Based on a May 2008 survey of those students, 42 students have indicated an interest in pursuing the MATESOL/BE. Thus, local teachers who have taken the five required courses for the State of Florida ESOL Endorsement will have an opportunity to apply most of those courses towards a relevant Masters degree. In addition, it is anticipated that immediately after the program is approved, ESOL faculty will begin the process of pursuing State approval for full ESOL certification.

Because there is such a huge need for ESOL and bilingual teachers at all levels (Pre-K to adult and higher education) and in so many settings (public schools, private language schools, vocational centers, community colleges, universities, publishing companies, and overseas), this program developed 6 new courses and revised 4 existing courses to build this diversity into 10 of its courses, allowing students to specialize, appropriately, for the jobs they plan to pursue. Perhaps *because* of the bad economy, ESOL and bilingual educators are still in high demand as learning English and having bilingual skills are seen as more critical than before for economic success.

### Fiscal Implications

Fortunately, for the first 3-4 years of this program, the U.S. Department of Education has awarded FAU with a grant to cover half the salaries of the 2-3 major faculty teaching in this new program. Additionally, the grant will provide tuition money for 12 full-time students, two of whom can also be supported with graduate assistantships. Because of the critical national need for ESOL and bilingual teachers, the U.S. Department of Education's 40-year history of providing funding for the training of ESOL and bilingual teachers, and south Florida's continued shortage of needed ESOL and bilingual teachers, FAU has a good chance of receiving continued grant funding, indefinitely.



# Request to Offer a New Degree Program

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Master of Arts in TESOL/  
Bilingual Education

Executive Summary



# Acronyms/Terms

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- TESOL = Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
- BE = Bilingual Education
- EL = English learners
- NCATE = National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education





# TESOL/Bilingual Education Needs the Program will Address:

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- ELs fare poorly because:
  - Unavailability of programs to support schools that use a bilingual approach
  - The unavailability of advanced ESOL/BE-related coursework for school administrators
  - The severe shortage of university teacher-trainers with ESOL/BE training (40% of Florida's ESOL teachers are teaching out-of-field)



# TESOL/Bilingual Education Needs the Program will Address:

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- The population of school-aged ELs in Florida increased by nearly 100%.
- EL children in Florida still suffer from low test scores, grade retention, and school dropout.
- There is a severe shortage of ESOL and bilingual teachers.
- There is *no* state university in South Florida with a MATESOL/BE program to address these needs.



# TESOL/Bilingual Education Program Overview:

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- Degree (36-credits) awarded through the College of Education -- Department of Curriculum, Culture and Educational Inquiry
- Designed to prepare students for a variety of jobs and educational opportunities
- A foreign language requirement that must be met before program completion



# TESOL/Bilingual Education Program Overview:

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- Includes a culminating practicum course that requires students to apply the knowledge and skills from the other courses to a major professional project and portfolio.
- Anticipate completion in two years (or four semesters)



# TESOL/Bilingual Education Correlation with State and University Goals

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- This is the only masters degree program at FAU specifically dedicated to preparing teachers to serve language minority populations.
- This will attract bilingual language minority teachers and teacher candidates and help fulfill local and state goals related to *diversity* and *inclusiveness*.
- This will serve the needs of the public schools in the local community and state.



# TESOL/Bilingual Education Correlation with State and University Goals

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- The practicum requires students to apply concepts and practice through supervised community service educational activities.
- There is an emphasis on building skills and attitudes to support lifelong learning.
- Its graduates will strengthen the pool of part-time adjuncts who teach undergraduate ESOL courses at FAU.



# TESOL/Bilingual Education Correlation with FAU Strategic Plan

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## **FAU Strategic Plan Goal 1: Providing Increased Access to Higher Education**

*Objective 6:* Adopt strategies that assure racial and ethnic diversity within the student body.

## **FAU Strategic Plan Goal 2: Meeting Statewide Professional and Workforce Needs**

## **FAU Strategic Plan Goal 3: Building World-Class Academic Programs and Research Capacity**

*Objective 6:* Adopt strategies that will institutionalize diversity among the University's faculty and staff.

## **FAU Strategic Plan Goal 4: Meeting Community Needs and Fulfilling Unique Institutional Responsibilities**

*Objective 5:* Engage students, faculty, and staff in service activities that mutually benefit the University and the community.



# TESOL/Bilingual Education Distinctive Qualities

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- FAU's MATESOL/BE program combines world-class excellence with meeting local, state, and national needs for more ESOL and bilingual teachers.
- Local teachers who have taken the five required courses for the State of Florida ESOL endorsement will have an opportunity to apply most of those courses toward a relevant Masters degree.

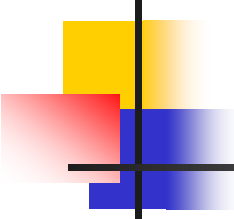




# TESOL/Bilingual Education Distinctive Qualities

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- It is anticipated that after the program is approved, ESOL faculty will begin the process of pursuing State approval for full ESOL certification.
- ESOL and bilingual educators are still in high demand as learning English and having bilingual skills are seen as more critical than before for economic success.



# TESOL/Bilingual Education Fiscal Implications

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- No additional state funding required.
- For 3-4 years of this program, the U.S. Dept. of Education has awarded FAU with a grant to cover half the salaries of the 23 major faculty teaching in this new program.
- The grant also provides tuition money for 12 full-time students (including two graduate assistantships).
- FAU has a good chance of receiving continued grant funding.