

**The Certificate in *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)*
Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana**

THE GROWING NEED FOR TEACHERS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (TESOL)

Non-native speakers of English have a growing need to learn English as a consequence of the "complex needs and challenges of the contemporary world" (Thomas Friedman). The ability to communicate in English is an increasingly necessary skill as nations become increasingly interdependent and as populations become more mobile.

English language learners live in every country, both where English is a dominant language and where it is not. Learners vary from beginners with little knowledge of English to advanced students honing their English for their profession in medicine, engineering, business, and aerospace.

To serve this growing need for instruction in the English language, English language teaching (ELT) takes place in virtually every country of the world and in a wide range of venues: public and private schools from the preschool to the university level, industry and business, private language schools, and through online learning programs.

THE TESOL PROFESSION

The profession of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) is growing rapidly in response to the global call for English language instruction. New opportunities for employment as a language teacher open throughout the world daily. The TESOL profession also offers a breadth of careers besides teaching such as in administration, research, and materials writing, and the education of new teachers.

Since the middle of the twentieth century, the profession has taken on greater disciplinary definition by becoming increasingly theorized through peer-reviewed research and professionalized by the establishment of degree and certification programs, journals, professional organizations, and other forums for professional development.

Credentialing in TESOL ranges from the PhD (broad theoretical perspective on language, language learning, and language teaching) to the Masters, to university certification (like the Saint Mary's Certificate in TESOL), to private certification programs, to diplomas for orientation to a particular teaching technique. TESOL.org provides resources for evaluating TESOL education programs and for selecting the type of program that might best suit an individual's interests and circumstances.

THE SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE CERTIFICATE IN TESOL

The Saint Mary's Certificate in TESOL is a stand-alone university certificate program open to both degree-seeking and non degree-seeking students. The Certificate is a joint program of the Departments of English and of Modern Languages and complements existing programs in English, Modern Languages, Education, and Intercultural Studies, among others.

Alumni of the Saint Mary's TESOL Certificate program are equipped with a theoretical and practical grounding in the field that is designed to prepare them to assess and exercise sound judgment in any teaching situation. University certificates in TESOL are credentials respected worldwide that usually enhance applicants' employment opportunities.

Because the Saint Mary's Certificate in TESOL is designed to prepare teachers for placement around the world and in a variety of instructional venues, its curriculum is not limited by or determined by US federal or state mandates; thus the Certificate differs from ENL/ESL minors in education departments that certify teachers for US public school instruction and does not provide this certification.

The Saint Mary's TESOL Certificate curriculum is aligned with the profession of TESOL as it is represented in established professional organizations, peer-reviewed research forums, and accredited education programs. One of the largest, most far-reaching, and more influential professional organizations of English language teachers is [TESOL](#). This organization serves teachers in several ways: It provides them with information about and access to educational resources, such as those listed in [common qualifications for English language teachers](#); it creates forums for communication, professional development, employment, and solidarity; it provides professional development through the publication of books and journals and by holding conferences; and it advocates for teacher quality by proposing standards such as those in the TESOL [position statement on teacher quality](#).

The goal of the Saint Mary's Certificate in TESOL is for candidates to acquire the theoretical and practical grounding necessary to effectively teach English to speakers of other languages. To earn the Certificate, students must demonstrate an understanding of:

1. How language functions within human societies
2. The common nature of human languages and the particular structure of English
3. The political history of English and the globalization of language and culture
4. Theories of language accommodation (acquisition) and multilingualism
5. Theoretical underpinnings of pedagogical approaches to the teaching of language and culture
6. Language teaching methods, materials development, and assessment

COURSES

The Saint Mary's Certificate in TESOL comprises four three-credit content courses and an internship. The content courses should be taken in the sequence listed below and may be taken across either one or two summers. During the internship candidates teach English as a new language in a supportive environment. The internship may be taken after completion of the four content courses.

CONTENT COURSES

- ENLT 305 *Introduction to Linguistics*
The nature of language with focus on its social function, changing nature, and mutability in use
- MODL 315 *English and the World*
World varieties of English, the politics of language, and perspectives on the globalization of culture
- MODL 450 *New Language Acquisition*
Theory of becoming and being multilingual
- MODL 451 *Teaching English as a New Language*
Approaches to teaching speaking, listening, reading, and writing

INTERNSHIP

- MODL 499: *TESOL Internship*
Supervised teaching at an instructional site. Location options include on-campus, in the local community, abroad, and elsewhere as arranged and approved by the student's advisor.

For more information about Saint Mary's College Certificate in TESOL, please contact Saint Mary's Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership at Saint Mary's College at 574.284.4051.