

MEd – Curriculum & Instruction

Area of Emphasis: English as a Second Language

Teachers and researchers need to understand how to support the academic and linguistic development of students who are learning English as an additional language. These students, who are often classified by their schools as English learners, English language learners, dual language learners, emergent bilinguals, or ESL/ESOL students, represent a growing and often underserved demographic in many U.S. schools and classrooms. The MEd in C&I with the ESL area of emphasis can lead to an add-on ESL endorsement; please contact April Salerno for additional details.

All Curriculum & Instruction MEd students are required to take five classes in the Curriculum & Instruction (C&I) core (15 hours) and five classes in an area of emphasis. The C&I core classes consists of four pillars—instruction, curriculum, assessment, and diversity. Students must successfully pass a comprehensive exam which is embedded in a culminating C&I course (EDIS 6880).



Course Descriptions

EDIS 5270: Teaching Reading and Writing to ELLs

This online course is designed for educators of children who are learning English as a second language. Theory is grounded in researched practices for teaching reading with an understanding of the challenges facing non-English native speakers.

EDIS 5422: Cross-Cultural Education for Diverse Learners

This course aims to help educators understand how to provide quality instruction for diverse learners in schools and classrooms that are becoming increasingly multicultural. In the course, students explore theories of culturally responsive/sustaining teaching and how they can be applied to help diverse learners (including but not limited to ethnically, culturally, and linguistically diverse students) feel valued and successful in classrooms.

EDIS 5423: English Linguistics

This course introduces the scientific study of language, exploring how linguistic insights can prepare teachers who work with preK-12 ELLs. It addresses the sounds of the language (phonetics and phonology), the structure of words/sentences (morphology and syntax) and how these features convey meaning (semantics and pragmatics). Students will apply this knowledge of language to the everyday use of English and its acquisition in school settings.

EDIS 5424: Second Language Acquisition

This course is for current and future teachers seeking to learn about second language acquisition (SLA) and how it relates to English learners. We learn existing theories of how students learn and acquire a second language, as well as individual, cultural, and contextual factors that influence language learning. We explore how theories about L1 learning are related to SLA theories and how L1s might or might not be reflected in school language.

EDIS 5428: ESL Methods PreK-12

This course is designed for current and future teachers seeking to learn how to instruct English learners. Students will explore the WIDA Essential Actions and ELD Standards, learn about various current and historical ESL instructional models, and will consider how the four language skills are taught within classrooms to ELs. Students will also learn about collaborative practice as ESL teachers working with grade-level or content-area teachers.

EDIS 5470: ESL Assessment and Curriculum Design

The purpose of this course is to prepare teachers to work with students (K-12) for whom English is not their native language. Work will include examining instruments used to assess English proficiency and the interpretation of those assessments. The curriculum design aspect of the course will be based on a differentiation model and will include methods aimed at helping students gain English language skills necessary for success in general content areas. Discussions will include topics such as cultural differences in personal interactions, strategies for working with families, and effective strategies for facilitating the learning of English by speakers of other languages and dialects. Practical experience will be gained through observations and fieldwork in public schools. Projects will be assigned according to the age-level with which the teacher hopes to work.

EDIS 7700 Reading Foundations for Diverse Learners

Reading comprehension requires the development of many subcomponent skills. This course will cover the fundamentals of reading development from emergent literacy through adolescent readers. Particular attention will be drawn toward understanding reading development theory, historical context of reading development and policy, as well as how federal policy impacts reading assessment and instruction.

Recommended Plan of Study

English as a Second Language Area of Emphasis

Recommended Plan (Coursework Only)	Offered	Requirement(s) Filled	Credits
Suggested plan: Please see your advisor for specifics. Students need to check their SIS Advising Reports to verify program completion progress.			
Semester 1 (Fall)			
EDIS 5025: Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction	Fall, Spring, Summer	C&I Core: Instruction	3
EDIS 5422: Cross-Cultural Education for Diverse Learners	Fall, Spring, Summer	C&I Core: Diversity	3
Semester 2 (Spring)			
EDIS 5080: Differentiated Instruction (endorsement) or EDIS 6200: Principles of Curriculum Design (non-endorsement) or EDIS 6800: Creativity and Problem Solving (non-endorsement/3+ years teaching)	Fall, Spring, Summer Fall, Spring, Summer Spring	C&I Core: Instruction/ELL Elective C&I Core: Curriculum	3
EDIS 5470: ESL Assessment and Curriculum Design or EDIS 5428: ESL Methods PreK-12	Fall, Spring	Focus: ELL/C&I Core: Assessment Focus: ELL/C&I Core: Instruction	3
Semester 3 (Summer)			
EDIS 7700 Reading Foundations for Diverse Learners	Fall, Spring, Summer	Focus: ELL	3
EDIS 5424: Second Language Acquisition	Summer	Focus: ELL	3
Semester 4 (Fall)			
EDIS 5270: Teaching Reading and Writing to ELLs	Fall, Spring, Summer	Focus: ELL	3
EDIS 5470: ESL Assessment and Curriculum Design or EDIS 5428: ESL Methods PreK-12	Fall, Spring	Focus: ELL/C&I Core: Assessment Focus: ELL/C&I Core: Instruction	3
Semester 5 (Spring)			
EDIS 6880: Master Comprehensive in Curriculum and Instruction	Fall, Spring, Summer	C&I Core: Culminating Class	3
EDIS 5423: English Linguistics	Spring, Summer	Focus: ELL	3
Total Credits			30