

The School of Continuing Studies at RWU ESL Teacher Certificate Program Frequently Asked Questions

Who can apply?

- Providence Public School RI-certified Pk-12 teachers are eligible to apply. The district reserves the right to prioritize registration for key teacher populations.
- Admissions Requirements: Transcript indicating minimum 3.0 g.p.a. from undergraduate/graduate institution. Two letters of recommendation. Application essay.
- During the school year component of the program, teachers will need to work directly with English language learners within their own classroom. If a teacher does not have English Language Learners in her/his classroom, they will need to make additional arrangements to teach in a classroom with ELs outside of the scope of duties.

Do I get my certificate to teach English Language Learners after I complete the program?

- If you complete the program and meet or exceed all competencies, you will be eligible for certification by RIDE. You will also need to submit a certification application to RIDE and pass the ESOL Praxis test. RWU does not issue teaching certificates.

How much does the program cost?

- The cost of the program is \$3500 for one year. If a candidate does not meet or exceed all competencies within the year, she/he will need to re-enroll and pay for a second year.
- Required books cost a total of \$72 (currently on Amazon).
- (The cost of the ESOL Praxis exam is currently \$120.)
- Plus the application fee to RIDE.

How long is the program?

- The program is for one year, July - June.
- July: three-week Summer Intensive. The first week is online. The second two weeks are face-to-face in Providence.
- August – June: Candidates engage in a series of learning experiences throughout the year – dependent on your individualized learning plan, but to include online modules, one-on-one meetings with your Learning Guide, monthly cohort meetings, and more!
- March: Plan for and participate in a Saturday EdCamp.

Do I get college credits in the program?

- No. The program is fully competency-based and is offered through RWU's Center for Workforce and Professional Development. No college credits are associated with the program.

What do you mean by "competency-based?"

- Competency-based approaches focus on students' mastery of clear and measurable learning and program outcomes. In competency education Candidates advance through the program upon mastery of standards, such as the five TESOL domains. The program is designed around the TESOL, WIDA, and Rhode Island Professional Teaching standards. Consider, for example, TESOL Standard 1.a., Language as a System. One of several competencies within this standard is 1.a.1: Demonstrates knowledge of the components of language and language as an integrative system. Candidates must demonstrate competency by submitting evidence that is assessed as meeting or exceeding the standard. In this case "Meeting" is defined as "Candidates can use the components of language and language as an integrative system to inform instruction with ELLs" and "Exceeding" is defined as "Candidates can use the components of language and language as an integrative system to create instructional plans for ELLs."

Who should I contact for more information?

- If you have questions about your current Pk-12 teaching certification, please contact RIDE.
- If you have questions about your undergraduate gpa, please contact the institution's Registrar.
- If you have questions about applying or aspects of the program itself, please email Kelly Donnell at kdonnell@rwu.edu or call 401.486.4725.