English Language Learner Endorsement (ELL) for P-12 Teachers

Note: The ELL endorsement is only for those who are already P-12 teachers or in a P-12 teacher education program. If you are interested in teaching or working with language learners in a non P-12 school, you may be interested in the Teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL) certificate (see TESOL Certificate handout or consult http://www.wwu.edu/tesol).

Teachers with the endorsement in English Language Learners (ELL) from Western Washington University possess in-depth understandings of the role of cultural and linguistic diversity in each student’s education. Our program focuses on developing the mainstream P-12 classroom teacher’s ability to shelter and support the instruction of language learners in mainstream classrooms, who are at all levels of fluency, as they work to achieve state expectations in subject matter content. Some teachers with ELL endorsements go on to become school ELL Specialists. ELL Specialists are usually experienced teachers who have taught language learners successfully for several years and have previously earned the ELL endorsement. Many earn a master’s degree or National Board certification in ELL prior to becoming a school or district ELL Specialist. Those earning an ELL and/or Bilingual Education endorsement may choose to complete either the 27-credit TESOL P-12 Focus minor (ELL) or the 33-credit Bilingual Education minor, but not both.

The ELL endorsement program prepares you to:
- Obtain the WA state endorsement for English Language Learners
- Teach a range of language learners in a mainstream classroom
- Work with families from various cultures and home languages
- Serve as a resource for other teachers
- Plan instruction using the Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP)
- Instruct using effective methods including strategies from the Guided Language Acquisition Design (GLAD)
- Thrive in culturally and linguistically diverse settings

Course Completion
Many of the ELL endorsement courses are offered late afternoons and evenings, making it easier for practicing P-12 teachers to attend. We also offer some courses in a hybrid and/or online format. It takes 4-6 academic quarters, or a combination of academic quarters and summer intensive courses to complete this endorsement.

We anticipate an endorsement program specifically designed for practicing teachers to start in 2016. It will be a cohort model and will take 1 calendar year to complete.

Application to the ELL Endorsement Program
An online form is available at https://wce.wwu.edu/eled/forms. Submit your application either online or in Miller Hall 301C.
Application Requirements
Applicants must:

- be currently in an accredited P-12 teacher preparation program
  or
- have a P-12 teaching license from any state
  or
- have at least 3 years of successful P-12 classroom teaching experience (anywhere in the world) and permission from the ELL Endorsement Program Director

Requirements Prior to Endorsement Completion

- **One year of college-level study in a foreign language or equivalent**
  This can be earned in a variety of ways, including a combination of coursework and experience, or 3 years of foreign language study in high school. Language coursework may be taken concurrently with the ELL endorsement courses.

- **Cross-cultural studies**
  This requirement can be met either through college coursework or by means of study/living in a non-English-speaking context. Various courses, such as one of the pre-approved AMST courses, and study abroad options are available in the College of Education.

Curriculum
The English Language Learner Endorsement program is designed to provide a foundation in second language acquisition theory, linguistics, language teaching methods, and cultural issues related to teaching a diverse student population in P-12 schools. Participants receive hands-on experience with language learners in each methods course, culminating in a mentored teaching practicum, which participants can complete in their own classrooms, during their teaching internship, or in another setting.

See [ELL/BILI Plan of Study](#) sheet for detailed course requirements.

Advising
Prospective ELL Endorsement students are invited to meet with an advisor for more information about the program. The main office is in Miller Hall 300 and the phone number is (360) 650-3336. You can also write to the ELL Endorsement Program Director at Jennifer.Green@wwu.edu.