ELL Endorsement
FAQs

1. What is the difference between the ELL endorsement program and TESOL certificate program?
The TESOL certificate program and the ELL endorsement program are now separate programs—each with their own courses and outcomes.

The TESOL certificate program is for you if you want to teach overseas or if you want to teach adults in the US; for example, if you would like to work with ELLs in IEPs (Intensive English Programs), in Community Colleges, or in GED programs. The theory and methodology are focused primarily on adult learning.

The ELL endorsement is for you if you want to teach in the P-12 school system in the United States. It is a secondary endorsement, meaning you also need to already have or be concurrently obtaining a teaching certificate in a content area in secondary education or some area within elementary education. The purpose of this endorsement is to make you a more effective teacher in the ‘mainstream’ classroom. You will have the ability to better support ELLs in your classroom to access the subjects you teach.

If you would like more detail about the TESOL program, please contact Trish Skillman at trish.skillman@wwu.edu. If you would like more detail about the ELL program, contact Dr. Green at jennifer.green@wwu.edu.

2. I am not an LLC major. However, I want my ELL endorsement. What ELL courses do I need to take?
   a. The short answer: All of them
      i. ELL 431 (4 credits)
      ii. ELL 432 (5 credits)
      iii. ELL 433 (4)
      iv. ELL 434 (5)
      v. ELL 435 (5)
      vi. ELL 436 (4)

3. I am an LLC major. What ELL courses do I need take?
   a. All but ELL435.

4. Wait! Why the difference between LLCs and non-LLCs?
   a. LLC majors take several additional courses in their reading endorsement classes that cover the objectives of ELL435.
5. I read, write, and speak another language fluently. I would like to get my bilingual endorsement. What does that require?
   a. You will need to pass the ACTFL exam.
   b. You will need to take the regular ELL endorsement courses plus you need to take ELL 438 (5 credits).
   c. Undergraduates can request a bilingual minor for completing all the ELL courses, including the additional ELL 438. However, if you request a bilingual minor you cannot request a TESOL minor. The university allows only one of the two because they share many courses.

6. I noticed that ELL 435 and 438 are not offered often. What can I do?
   a. ELL 438 is currently offered every spring. Hopefully one day in the future there will be so many bilingual candidates that we will be able to offer it more often. Until that day, it’s critical to plan in advance! Think about your course plans in the long term and try to make it work. The other option is to graduate with an ELL endorsement and return after graduation in the spring and take ELL 438 and the extra credit of ELL 436 (teaching in your target language) at that time.
   b. We hope that ELL435 will be offered more often as the ELL endorsement is becoming more popular. However, make sure you talk with Jennifer Green about long-term planning so you don’t get caught in a scheduling nightmare.

7. Wait, did you say Mexico? That sounds great. Tell me more!
   a. In Summer 2015 ELL 433 and ELL 434 are offered in a hybrid format—4 weeks online and 5 weeks in Querétaro, Mexico. In addition to learning the content of these classes, you can also study Spanish and earn one quarter toward the foreign language requirement for ELL. This does not waive a quarter for the foreign language department.
   b. For LLCs—full and successful completion of the summer ELL Mexico immersion can count as one AMST course requirement.
   c. Furthermore, you gain exposure to the wonderful Mexican culture, learn about its history, and immerse yourself in Spanish by living with a Mexican family. It really is a great deal.

8. I am thinking of teaching overseas right out of college. What do you think?
   a. Teaching abroad is a great opportunity. We highly recommend that you add your TESOL certificate. This gives you the knowledge and skills to work with adults or youth in an English as a foreign language context. With the TESOL certificate you will be qualified for better jobs and you will be a more effective teacher. Teaching in another country is quite different from teaching P-12 in an ESL context—that is why there are two programs here at WWU. Plus, with these additional courses you will also gain the skills to work with adults here in the US—perhaps teaching parents in evening classes at your school where you will teach or at a community college.
9. **Well, that sounds great. Do I have to take the entire TESOL sequence?**
a. No. You will need to take TESL405 and TESL432/435. Talk to Trish Skillman at trish.skillman@wwu.edu for more information.

10. **The other thing that confuses me is the TESOL minor. What is that and can I get it?**
a. If you take all the TESL courses you can request the TESOL minor if you are an undergraduate.
b. If you complete all the courses for the ELL Endorsement and you are an undergraduate you can request the TESOL minor with a focus on P-12.
c. If you receive the bilingual minor (see Q4) you cannot receive a TESOL minor—it’s one or the other!

11. **Hold on! The website is giving all sorts of conflicting information. Who and what do I believe?**
a. We apologize for the conflicting messages. As we complete the revisions to the ELL and TESOL program, we are updating the websites, catalog, and other information. If in doubt, feel free to contact Dr. Green at jennifer.green@wwu.edu. She is the now the ELL program director and can help sort things out.

12. **I keep getting told different things. What can I do?**
a. Get everything in writing and keep track of those notes. This will help us help you navigate the system.

13. **I am not in Woodring yet. However, I really want to be a teacher. Can I take some of the ELL courses?**
a. Yes you can. You can take ELL 431 and ELL 432 based on availability. Students admitted to Woodring have first choice of these classes.
b. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you take these ELL courses and you do not get accepted into an education program or decide not to apply, they do not transfer to the TESOL program or to any other program. You will be smarter for taking the classes. But, understand that you cannot use them toward a different major, certificate, or degree.