

TRANSMITTAL for GRADUATE PROGRAMS: Changes or Proposals

I. INFORMATION:

- A. Check all that apply: Existing Program New Program
 Name Change Credits Change Substantial Change in Curriculum
- B. Program Title: M.A. in TESOL
 C. Department(s) (Originating): English
 D. College(s) (Originating): Arts and Sciences
 E. Programs / Departments Consulted (Requires letters of support from all Departments or Programs substantially affected):
 1) _____ 2) _____
 3) _____ 4) _____
- F. Date of Implementation: Fall Semester 2008 Year
 G. Have all courses in this program been approved? Yes No If "No", which ones?
 H. Attach Request Narrative

II. UNIT APPROVALS: Requires signatures of all Department Chairs and Deans whose programs will be substantially affected by the changes or proposal. Signature lines for the affected Departments and Colleges (noted in "E" above), are on the back of this form. These signatures should be obtained prior to review by all other shared governance levels.

	Signature	Date
Department Curriculum Committee Chair (optional)	_____	_____
Department/Program Chair	<u>Laura Zogor</u>	<u>12-14-07</u>
College Curriculum Cmtt. Chair	_____	_____
Dean of College	<u>Jacques M. G.</u>	<u>12/19/07</u> <u>Brant</u>
Graduate Council Chair	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>12/19/07</u>
University Curriculum Cmtt. Chair	<u>Joyce Miller</u>	<u>12/21/07</u>
Academic Policy & Program Cmtt. Chair	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>12/19/07</u>
Faculty Senate Chair	<u>David P. Perrille</u>	<u>2/6/07</u>
Provost / Vice Chancellor	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>2-27-07</u>
Chancellor	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>2/1/07</u>

*NOTE: The master copy of this transmittal & accompanying documents must be filed in the Provost's office upon final approval. The Provost's office will notify all appropriate administrative offices [Registrar, Office of Graduate Studies, Dean(s), Department Chair(s)] of approvals & necessary actions to implement changes.

TRANSMITTAL for GRADUATE PROGRAMS: Changes or Proposals

Department & College Approval Signatures

Signature

Date

Department Chair _____

College Curriculum Cmtt. Chair _____

Dean of College _____

Signature

Date

Department Chair _____

College Curriculum Cmtt. Chair _____

Dean of College _____

Signature

Date

Department Chair _____

College Curriculum Cmtt. Chair _____

Dean of College _____

Signature

Date

Department Chair _____

College Curriculum Cmtt. Chair _____

Dean of College _____

Narrative Request for an M. A. in TESOL

The TESOL Major and Minor Program at UWRF was created in 2000 in response to the dramatic increase in the number of English language learners in the West Central Wisconsin and Twin Cities Metropolitan region. While our undergraduate program continues to grow and to produce new elementary and secondary teachers to meet the regional need for ESL teachers, the need for an M.A. in TESOL has also grown, currently being met by only one other program in the UW System—UW-Oshkosh—on the eastern side of the state.

The population of students needing instruction in English as a Second Language has been rapidly increasing with the rate of Limited English Proficient (LEP) student enrollment in Wisconsin and Minnesota reaching 132.9% and 210% respectively during the ten-year period of 1992-2002.

According to *Pioneer Press* (16 February 1999), “demand for teachers is growing in a region that includes Minnesota and six other Midwestern states.” A recent report in the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* (30 June 2007) indicated the vast increase in the immigrant population in one Twin Cities suburb—Burnsville—alone “where one student in eight—1,229 of 10,339—has limited proficiency in English” in contrast to seven years ago when one student in 33 needed ESL instruction. Below is a chart generated by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction showing the steady increase in English language learners.

Enrollment by English Proficiency Groups Arranged Alphabetically Left to Right Entire State 2006-07 Compared to Prior Years Summary					
	Enrollment (PreK-12*)	% LEP Spanish	% LEP Hmong	% LEP Other	% English Proficient
1998-99	879,106	1.3	1.3	0.3	97.1
1999-00	877,348	1.4	1.4	0.4	96.8
2000-01	877,379	1.6	1.3	0.4	96.7
2001-02	877,535	1.9	1.3	0.5	96.3
2002-03	879,225	2.1	1.2	0.6	96.1
2003-04	878,217	2.3	1.2	0.6	95.9
2004-05	863,495	2.6	1.3	0.6	95.5
2005-06	874,098	2.2	1.1	1.3	95.5
2006-07	875,543	2.8	1.3	0.9	95.0

In Wisconsin, the demand for ESL teachers is far from being satisfied, too. In 2005, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction conducted a project, *Supply and Demand of Education Personnel for Wisconsin Public Schools*, that identified “areas of extreme undersupply” and listed ESL as one of them.

The Supply and Demand 2005 report also uses another kind of data to demonstrate the situation in the ESL area in Wisconsin: the number of emergency licenses. "Wisconsin's Department of Public Instruction issues emergency licenses to individuals when school districts cannot find a licensed candidate to fill a vacancy" (p. 26), and in 2005 the number of emergency hires in the field of ESL and bilingual education reported to DPI by school districts was 104 (p. 61). The 2005 Report shows that 86 one-year special licenses in ESL alone were issued during 2004-05, 17% of all secondary special licenses issued in the state that year.

As a result of the high demand, the TESOL Program at UWRF has been steadily growing. If the program continues to grow at the rate it was growing in the past 5 years (at an average of 5.4 students per year), in the next five-year period we can foresee an increase of student enrollment from 50+ to 75-80 TESOL Majors and Minors.

While the current TESOL Major and Minor prepare undergraduate students for work in this field, the M.A. in TESOL would provide a program for prospective students already in possession of a B. A. or a B. S.

The M.A. in TESOL is designed to attract four different and diverse groups:

- (1) in-service teachers seeking both an M.A. and expertise in working with an increasing population of LEP students
- (2) students already possessing a B.A. or B.S. degree but without Teaching Licensure
- (3) international students who are seeking an advanced degree in TESOL combined with the opportunity to improve their English skills while studying in an English speaking environment
- (4) students already possessing a B. A. or B. S. who are interested in graduate study in language and linguistics
- (5) students wishing to teach ESL in a community college or adult education context.

A comparison of the proposed UWRF M.A. TESOL with those offered elsewhere demonstrates the strength of this degree. While some programs offer little more than an ESL techniques course with perhaps a course in multicultural education and a few in language and linguistics, our program is comprehensive. A student graduating with this degree will be well qualified to teach in American public schools, adult education, or internationally.

UW System: No other campus in the University of Wisconsin System offers a Master's degree in TESOL. UW-Madison and UW-Stevens Point offer a graduate Certificate in TESOL, designed for people who want to teach English as a Foreign Language abroad. UW-Eau Claire and UW-Platteville offer graduate credits in TESOL that lead to ESL licensure. UW-Oshkosh has a graduate degree in Curriculum and Instruction that leads to ESL licensure as well as a Bilingual/Bicultural licensure minor. UW-River Falls' MA in TESOL will be the only M.A. in TESOL in the System.

Region: Several universities in Minnesota have TESOL programs. Hamline's program has three different tracks: TESOL certification (a ten-week program), certification for teachers of adult ESL (a 12-credit program), and state licensure in ESL. The University of Minnesota has two master's programs offering M.A. and MEd. Degrees in ESL in their Institute of Linguistics and Asian and Slavic Languages

and Literatures and College of Education. St. Cloud State also offers an M.A. in English with TESOL concentration. The University of St. Thomas in St. Paul has recently begun a licensure program. Minnesota State University-Mankato offers an M.A. in English (TESOL tract). Both of the latter schools are at least a two-hour drive from River Falls.

National: UWRF's M.A. program is consistent with the requirements of the best degrees offered across the country. When we market our program, especially to international students, our degree will be appealing to any student wishing to achieve an M.A. in TESOL.