



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL)

Announcement and Application for 2016 ESL/ESOL GRADUATE ACADEMY

TO: ESOL COORDINATORS/ ESOL TEACHERS/ PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATORS WHO WORK WITH LANGUAGE MINORITY STUDENTS (English Learners [ELs] and Fluent English Proficient students [FEPs])

Application deadline: Friday, April 1, 2016

Note: Applications received after the deadline will be added to a waitlist. We are aware that some districts may not hire until May and June so we will allow for this.

The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), English Learners Unit, in partnership with Arkansas Tech University (ATU) and the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, has planned intensive graduate instruction for educators interested in learning about teaching students with primary home languages other than English. This is a unique opportunity to acquire the training and credit needed to complete requirements for the ESL endorsement issued by ADE.

The ten-day Academy will focus on the areas of second language acquisition, ESL methodology, assessment of English Learner (EL) students, and working with students from diverse cultures, as well as on the application of ESL teaching skills to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). **The daily hours of each face-face session are 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. with two (2) meals plus snacks provided.** All of the assignments are designed to provide ELs with equal access to the content. If you do not have ELs with whom to work during the school year, the assignments will be a challenge. You may be able to borrow students within your school with whom to complete your assignments but you must be able to work with ELs.

Upon successful completion of the ESL Graduate Academy, including attendance/participation in 10 face-face days and completed assignments for the four courses on Blackboard through Arkansas Tech University or the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, participants will be awarded twelve hours of graduate credit. These credits and a passing score on ESL Praxis 5362 will meet ADE's requirements for the ESL endorsement. The intensive and focused instruction and assignments you receive from this experience (along with support from the university instructors) will provide you with the knowledge and skills to pass the ESL Praxis.

The ESL Graduate Academy will pay for all materials and tuition. Arkansas Tech University will conduct the ESL Academies and issue the credit hours for one Russellville and two Little Rock sites. The University of Arkansas at Fayetteville will issue the credit hours for one Little Rock and two Springdale sites. Lodging for the six-day summer sessions will be available at the June 20-25 session in both Russellville and Little Rock for teachers driving more than an

hour one way. Other costs covered by the Academy include lodging where applicable and all food during the duration of the face-face classes. All applicants accepted will be required to pay the application fee of \$40 and the fee to take the ESL Praxis in spring 2017. The cost of the Praxis is about \$125. Teachers will be required to have some type of laptop or tablet for the Academy. All handouts will be electronic for the 2016 Academy.

Participants will assume all transportation expenses to and from the Academy site.

There are four (4) content face-face days throughout the school year. These are scheduled for one (1) Friday and three (3) Saturdays for five (5) of the cohorts and one (1) Sunday and three (3) Saturdays for one (1) of the cohorts for ESL Academy 2016. Before you apply, please check one (1) of the following:

A	My district will provide a substitute for one Friday in the fall. (Sept. 9, 16, or 23)
B	I will take one personal day for one Friday in the fall. (Sept. 9, 16, or 23)
C	I am okay with one Sunday in lieu of one Friday and agree to the Russellville site which will be Saturday and Sunday. The summer dates for this session are June 20-25.

If you choose A or B, you will be asked on the Acceptance/Confirmation letter sent to you at a later date to have your immediate supervisor (principal, superintendent) send to the ESL Academy Facilitator an email ensuring that you will be able to attend on the one Friday that is assigned to your cohort.

Criteria for Selection to the 2016 ESL Graduate Academy

Acceptance to the 2016 ESL Graduate Academy will be limited. Teachers are urged to apply as early as possible. Criteria for selection will include the need for ESL services in a teacher’s school district, as reflected in the teacher’s application, as well as the need to balance participation by geographic region of the state, district size, number of LEP/ELL enrollment, and the applicant’s role within the school. In order to qualify for consideration, applicants must be licensed and employed full-time in an Arkansas public school. They need not have been employed during the 2015-2016 school year if they have received confirmation of a contract for the 2016-2017 school year. Districts will be contacted to confirm a teacher’s employment status.

1. Application for Selection to 2016 ESL Graduate Academy

All teachers applying for the 2016 ESL Graduate Academy must complete and submit an online application found at the link provided below in this section. Applicants will have an opportunity to indicate a 1st and 2nd site choice. The curriculum, instruction, and assessment for both universities will be identical. Each site will be limited to 65 participants. We will try to assign applicants to the Academy closest to their homes. If space is not available at that site, applicants will be assigned to another Academy site wherever space is available. Applicants who are assigned to an alternate site will be notified via email with an opportunity to have input. There is a detailed description of the dates and locations for six (6) cohorts of participants on page four (4) of this announcement.

The link for everyone to apply for the 2016 ESL Graduate Academy is:

<http://www.atu.edu/eslacademy>

After submitting the online application, teachers will receive an automated e-mail within one week confirming their successful submission. The ESL Facilitator will provide applicants with an expected timeline for the process from this point on – from submitting an application to the Academy, being accepted to the Academy, confirming your acceptance, to being admitted into the graduate college at either Arkansas Tech University or the University of Arkansas.

Notification of acceptance will be made no later than April 8, 2016. This notification will include an Acceptance and Confirmation letter which must be returned no later than April 15, 2016. This letter will contain some questions to answer and some choices to be made. It will be a Word document so applicants should save it before typing in the requested information. Applicants must email this form back to the ESL Academy Facilitator. Once the Confirmation form is received, applicants will receive a link that will be specific to the university designated to award credit for the site for which the applicant is assigned.

2. Application to Graduate College

Once applicants are accepted and participation confirmed, they are provided instructions for admission to their assigned university as a non-degree seeking students. The universities have made every effort to streamline admission procedures by eliminating some of the paperwork required of degree seeking students. Once admitted, the applicant becomes a participant/graduate student. The ESL Academy Facilitator will stay in contact with applicants/participants from the beginning to the end of this process.

Applicants do not need to submit a transcript, however they will need to submit an affidavit for non-degree seeking graduate students at the U of A. The ESL Academy Facilitator will contact school district personnel to verify current teaching license and status of employment.

ADE ESL Endorsement Requirements

Once selected, confirmed, and admitted, participants **must** complete all requirements for ADE's ESL endorsement. Because of the contact-hours requirement for graduate credit, participants must attend all sessions during the Academy, a six-day summer session and four weekend days – **three** (3) during the fall of 2016 and **one** (1) during the spring of 2017. Specific dates are reflected on page four (4) of this Announcement. **This will be an intensive, demanding ten days plus online work to equal approximately 180 hours (i.e., 45 hours per course.) There will be four modules to be completed at different intervals. All participating teachers will be required to do all assignments via Blackboard within a specific timeline. Instructions for using Blackboard will be provided throughout the six-day summer session. Each cohort of teachers will be assigned to an instructor of record who will be on site during their assigned sessions. All of the Blackboard assignments will be reviewed with teachers in the June session. Instructors will stay in contact with their cohort of teachers throughout the year-long process.**

The following table shows the cohort options. We are committed to keeping our numbers at each site to 65 unless we have to adjust this. **Just make sure that you check a 2nd choice provided to you when you apply to the Academy.**

Cohort	Dates for 10 days	Site/location	IHE	Curriculum
Cohort 1	June 6-11	Little Rock	ATU	All areas of the 4 courses presented by 4 national speakers and instructor of record, Judy Hobson
	Sept. 16			Planning and Implementing Instruction for English Learners with appropriate assessment embedded.
	Sept. 17			Laws and Programming for ELs
	Oct. 22			Follow-up for Planning and implementing for English learners
	Jan. 14			ESL Praxis Review and Practice
Cohort 2	June 6-11	Springdale	UAF	All areas of the 4 courses presented by 4 national speakers and instructor of record, Dr. Janet Penner-Williams
	Sept. 16			Planning and Implementing Instruction for English Learners with appropriate assessment embedded.
	Sept. 17			Laws and Programming for ELS
	Oct. 22			Follow-up for Planning and implementing for English learners
	Jan. 21			ESL Praxis Review and Practice
Cohort 3	Jun 13-18	Little Rock	ATU	All areas of the 4 courses presented by 4 national speakers and instructor of records, Dr. Ursula Chandler
	Sept. 23			Planning and Implementing Instruction for English Learners with appropriate assessment embedded
	Sept. 24			Laws and Programming for ELs
	Oct. 29			Follow-up for Planning and implementing for English learners
	Jan. 28			ESL Praxis Review and Practice
Cohort 4	Jun 13-18	Springdale	UAF	All areas of the 4 courses presented by 4 national speakers and instructor of record, Dr. Mary Bridgforth
	Sept. 23			Planning and Implementing Instruction for English Learners with appropriate assessment embedded
	Sept. 24			Laws and Programming for
	Oct. 29			Follow-up for Planning and implementing for English learners
	Feb. 11			ESL Praxis Review and Practice
Cohort 5	June 20-25	Russellville	ATU	All areas of the 4 courses presented by 4 national speakers and instructor of record, Dr. Ursula Chandler
	Oct. 1			Planning and Implementing Instruction for English Learners with appropriate assessment embedded.
	Oct. 2			Laws and Programming for ELL
	Nov. 5			Follow-up for Planning and implementing for English learners
	Feb. 18			ESL Praxis Review and Practice
Cohort 6	June 20-25	Little Rock	UAF	All areas of the 4 courses presented by 4 national speakers and instructor of record, Jaime Miller
	Sept. 30			Planning and Implementing Instruction for English Learners with appropriate assessment embedded
	Oct. 1			Laws and Programming for ELS
	Nov. 5			Follow-up for Planning and implementing for English learners
	Feb. 25			ESL Praxis Review and Practice

Please keep a copy of this announcement so that you can refer to it as needed.

For general information concerning the ESL Academy 2016, you may direct questions to:

Judy Hobson, email jahobson96@gmail.com or (479) 530-2846 (text or voice)

Please share this application with interested colleagues.