

MA TESOL Comprehensive Exam Requirements

These exam requirements apply to all students admitted to the MA TESOL program in Fall 2011 or later. Students who were admitted to the MA TESOL program prior to Fall 2011 will be able, if they choose, to complete the portfolio requirements described in the “2009-2011 MA TESOL Portfolio Requirements” in Fall 2012. After Fall 2012, all students who wish to earn the MA TESOL degree must complete the portfolio requirements described below.

The MA TESOL is a terminal degree that offers professional preparation in the field of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. In order to receive this degree, the student must successfully complete an MA TESOL portfolio, which includes the components described below. Students can complete the portfolio only if they are enrolled in or have taken and passed LING 5393 *TESOL Practicum*. The written portions of the portfolio (items a-d below) must be submitted as a single PDF file via email to ling.advisor@uta.edu by noon on the Friday of the 12th week of the fall or spring semester (unless otherwise specified). The student must also pass a demonstration lesson and oral interview, which will take place 7 to 10 days after the due date for the written materials. The student’s written materials, demonstration lesson, and interview will be assessed by members of the Department’s graduate faculty. Grades will be determined as outlined below, meeting deadlines set by the Graduate School.

Required components

Items (a) and (b) will each receive a grade from the examining faculty as a whole, either Pass (P) or Fail (F).

(a) **Professional resume** (1-2 pages)

(b) **Teaching statement** (2 page, double-spaced): This statement should be a concise explanation of the student’s TESOL experience and teaching philosophy.

Items (c)-(f) will each receive grades of High Pass (HP), Pass (P), Low Pass (LP) or Fail (F) from each examining faculty member.

(c) **Synthesis and application paper** (4-6 pages, double-spaced): The student will integrate (i) information from at least three scholarly (technical/theoretical) articles, (ii) specific language teaching experiences, and (iii) feedback from instructors, fellow students, and teaching supervisors to create a clear statement of how these different sources of information contribute to his/her approach to TESOL practice.

(d) **Lesson plan**: This lesson plan should provide specific information about the target student population, the context of the lesson, and its goals/objectives. It should also describe in detail each activity/task in the lesson. In these descriptions, the student should justify the use the activity/task (with reference to the scholarly literature) and clearly explain how it matches the lesson's goals/objectives. The student should also provide all of the materials (e.g., handouts, slides, etc.) necessary to conduct the lesson.

(e) **Demo lesson:** The student will perform a ~10-minute demonstration lesson based on a section of his/her lesson plan. Before beginning this demo lesson, the student will be expected to provide specific information about the target student population and goals for the lesson. After the lesson, the student will be expected to explain (with reference to relevant scholarly literature) how the activities/components of the lesson match its goals.

(f) **Oral Interview:** A team of 2-4 faculty members will conduct a mock job interview of ~30 minutes to assess the student's academic maturity, pedagogical skills, and preparation as an ESL/EFL teacher. The student will then be expected to answer a number of questions in a format approximating a job interview for a TESOL position.

Grading

The student will receive an **unconditional pass with a recommendation of certification to receive the earned degree**, if the exam receives the following grades:

- (i) Ps on items (a) and (b)
- (ii) no more than one LP on items (c)-(f)

The student will receive a **conditional pass with the requirement that additional conditions be met** (as appropriately determined by the faculty), if the exam receives the following grades:

- (i) an F on item (a) or (b)
- OR
- (ii) more than one LP on items (c)-(f)

The student will receive a **failure on the comprehensive exam** (either with permission to be re-examined after a specified period or with a recommendation for dismissal from the program), if the exam receives the following grades:

- (i) Fs on items (a) and (b)
- OR
- (ii) an F on any of the items (c)-(f)

The Graduate Catalog: "The final master's examination can result in: 1) an unconditional pass with a recommendation to the Dean of Graduate Studies that the candidate be certified to receive the earned degree; 2) a conditional pass with the requirement that additional conditions be met, which may include further work on the thesis or thesis substitute, additional coursework with a minimum specified grade-point average, or both (in all cases, the final master's examination must be repeated within a specified period); 3) failure, with permission to be re-examined after a specified period; or 4) failure, with recommendation to the Dean of Graduate Studies that the candidate be dismissed from the program. Most programs limit to two the number of repeats of the final master's examination. Additional repeats require specific advanced written approval by the Dean of Graduate Studies."