



Certification Courses

In-Class and Self-study

Curriculum

The syllabus approaches each module topically from the point of view of someone who holds a myth about teaching English as a foreign language. Then, each myth is deconstructed according to major theorists and researchers from the field of TESOL which then provides the rationale for the course's instruction, assignments, and discussions. This sequence is meant to help candidates feel like they are able to ask the right questions they may have never asked about teaching EFL as well as to prepare candidates to digest the broad amount of material covered. Additionally, ConnectTEFL aims to prepare candidates to be confident with practical teaching skills such as lesson planning, classroom management, activity preparation, and more.

ConnectTEFL provides a comprehensive overview of the most prominent theories and methodologies from the last 60 years in the field of teaching English as a Second/ Foreign Language.

The following are themes which will occur throughout the curriculum. †These themes are the result of decades of research in TESOL and practices that will be emphasized during the course:

- A focus on learners as active creators in their learning process, not as passive recipients.

- A focus on the learner's language and what it may reveal about the language- learning process.
- A focus on communicative language teaching and the components of communicative competence.
- A focus on language function as well as on language form
- A focus on an interactive mode of communicative classroom instruction, one that fosters learner creativity
- A focus on the individuality of learners and individual learning styles and strategies
- A focus on the intellectual involvement of learners in the learning process and in content
- A focus on socio-cultural and affective dimensions of language learning and the humanistic classroom
- A focus on the special language needs of particular groups of language learners
- A focus on the creative use of technology in second language learning and teaching
- A focus on teachers as managers of language-learning experiences, not as drill leaders and presenters of material

†Chun, Dorothy M. Discourse Intonation in L2: From Theory and Research to Practice. John Benjamins Publishing, 2002. Print.

Part I. Instruction (100 hours)

Lesson 1: Understanding the Field and Lesson Planning

Lesson 2: Adapting Lessons and Instruction to Specific Learners

Lesson 3: Language Acquisition Theory

Lesson 4: Vocabulary

Lesson 5: Grammar

Lesson 6: Speaking

Lesson 7: Speaking cont.

Lesson 8: Culture

Lesson 9: Culture cont.

Lesson 10: Reading

Lesson 11: Reading cont.

Lesson 12: Writing

Part II. Practicum (20 hours)

With ConnectTEFL staff assistance, candidates will arrange 10 hours of practice teaching and 10 hours of ESL classroom observation.

Cross-Cultural Competency

An enormous dimension of teaching EFL is being able to recognize the intersections between culture and language acquisition. The ConnectTEFL curriculum is designed to give candidates a “tool belt” of cross-cultural competency so that they may confidently assess when culture could be positively or negatively affecting language teaching and learning. The curriculum includes broad instruction on world cultures, culture as it affects learning, acculturation for students and teachers, and sociocultural aspects of language acquisition.

Example Candidate Schedule

ConnectTEFL In-Class course is designed to try to balance the demands of a full-time, 40-hour work week with the workload of a 120-hour certification

program. We recognize many of our candidates have jobs, families, and lives outside of ConnectTEFL. At the same time, an internationally recognized TEFL certification requires at least 100 hours of instruction and 20 hours of practicum. Therefore, we have divided the 100 instructional hours into 50 hours in-class and 50 hours of at-home readings/modules. This is so candidates may have flexibility in completing their certificate in a reasonable amount of time. But in general, to be successful in the program, candidates will need to be prepared to give a total of roughly 6-7 hours a week to in-class instruction and out-of-class readings and modules combined. Candidates should also try to accomplish about 1-2 hours a week of practicum in order to finish 20 hours in 15 weeks.

ConnectTEFL Online course is designed to accommodate learners who do not have the availability to attend an in-class course, prefer an online setting, or live outside the Memphis area. ConnectTEFL Online is also designed to resemble the in-class course as much as possible with readings, writing tasks, and discussion boards where candidates interact with others in the course. Our online platform is set up to also imitate the dynamic nature of an in-class setting with videos and interactive activities. Additionally, online candidates receive the same attention from a lead teacher trainer on a weekly basis. The online course is organized in 15 week modules with 7-9 hours a week of assignments and practicum.

Practicum

Every candidate who seeks certification at the end of the program must have fulfilled 20 hours of practicum in addition to 100 hours of instruction. The practicum is divided into 10 hours of practice teaching and 10 hours of classroom observation.

Practice Teaching will occur throughout the 100-hour instructional period of the certificate and comprises the first 10 hours of practicum. Each candidate is required to teach 10 hours and feedback will be given as part of a candidate's practicum portfolio. These 10 hours usually involve submitting lesson plans

and audio recordings (i.e. via smart phones) of each lesson and will be coordinated with ConnectTEFL staff.

Classroom Observation comprises the remaining 10 hours of practicum. With the help of ConnectTEFL staff, candidates will arrange for observation opportunities of local ESL/ EFL classes and online candidates who are not in Memphis must locate observation opportunities in their city. Class observation must be finished and turned in before the end of the course.

If you are concerned about completing your practicum, we have worked with a variety of candidates in a variety of settings. Please feel free to contact us with your concerns.

About Certification

ConnectTEFL candidates are not given grades on an A through F scale, but are either awarded or not awarded certification. Some candidates may choose to “audit” the term and not receive certification, but just receive the training. In order to be awarded a certificate, a candidate must:

- have a satisfactory attendance record
- have completed readings and outside course work
- have displayed a reasonable acquisition of the material in the lesson plan portfolio
- have completed the 20-hour practicum

Candidates will have their signed and sealed certificates mailed to them following full completion of the program.

Job Resources and Partnerships

As part of their enrollment and certification in ConnecTEFL, candidates will receive ongoing job counseling during the course and indefinitely after they become certified. This includes helping candidates:

- acquire interview skills for ESL/EFL jobs
- find job opportunities in the US and abroad
- prepare a resume, teaching philosophy, and portfolio of lesson plans
- communicate with potential employers
- discuss issues they may face in their first years teaching

Additionally, candidates can work with ConnecTEFL's staff's connections around the world to find employment following certification. Thousands of job opportunities to teach abroad are posted every month; our staff can help you find a job that is suitable for you.