To: Faculty Senate

From: David Hargreaves, Chair, Department of English, Writing and Linguistics

Date: Oct 28, 2010

Re: **Proposed New Program: Certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language**

* DESCRIPTION OF NEW PROGRAM

The faculty of the Department of English, Writing and Linguistics (DEWL) propose an undergraduate/post-baccalaureate Certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language.

As of 2010, the English Department includes both an English/Linguistics emphasis, and a Linguistics Minor. The English Department common core requires 41 credits, 8 of which are required Linguistics. The English/Linguistics Major requires an additional 20 hours in Linguistics (plus 8 more hours of electives). The Linguistics Minor requires 8 hours of Linguistics prerequisites plus an addition 12 hours of upper-division Linguistics courses, for a total of 20 hours.

The proposed TEFL Certificate program will consist of a 26-credit program (22 upper-division) composed of six 4-credit courses plus a 2-credit practicum. The program is designed for undergraduates and post-baccalaureate students seeking a TEFL certificate. Students pursuing the English Linguistics Major, or Linguistics Minor will be able to pursue the Certificate along with their Major/Minor courses. Students may also enter the program with a Baccalaureate degree, and pursue the Certificate by completing the required courses (26 credits).

**Overview of WOU TEFL Certificate Requirements**

LING 210 Intro to Linguistics (4)

LING 315 Structure of English (4)

LING 312 Language and Society ***or*** LING 370 Discourse and Text (4)

LING 410 Theories of Foreign Language Acquisition with adult/young adult learners (4)

LING 415 Strategies in TEFL Teaching with adult/young adult learners (4)  
LING 492 Pedagogical Grammar in TEFL with adult/young adult learners (4)

LING 416 Practicum (20 hours) (2)

TOTAL (26)

The program will focus on preparing TEFL teachers of adult/young adult learners of English, primarily but not exclusively, in institutions outside of the US. This program contrasts with and complements the College of Education’s K-12 Bilingual/ESOL Endorsement, where the focus is exclusively on Oregon K-12 students whose dominant or home language is not English.

The program can be implemented with current staffing and will not require any additional resources.

* REASONS FOR CHANGE

1. Given the continued growth of English as an International Language, opportunities for teaching English abroad remain plentiful, and many current undergraduate students and post-baccalaureate students, particular those in English, Humanities and Social Sciences, seek these international TEFL positions. Obtaining TEFL training before seeking employment abroad greatly increases prospective teachers’ job opportunities and their chances of obtaining higher quality positions. In addition, large numbers of International students come to the U.S to study English and TEFL in order to teach in their home country. Majors or minors in English Linguistics and TEFL are almost always required for obtaining successful teaching positions. This certificate program provides opportunities for these two core constituencies and maintains professional standards for international TEFL instruction.
2. Currently, only two institutions in the Oregon University System offer an Applied Linguistics/TEFL Certificate that is geared toward undergraduate or post-baccalaureate students seeking TEFL qualifications for teaching English abroad. Both of these programs (University of Oregon and at Portland State University) provide certificates that are co-extensive with undergraduate and/or graduate majors in Linguistics/Applied Linguistics.

At University of Oregon, the certificate in Second Language Teaching requires a 24-28 credit program of courses, divided into 12 hours of Teaching and Learning courses, and 12 hours of Language courses, plus a 2-4 hour practicum experience.

At PSU, in addition to 32 credits of methodology and language courses, the PSU certificate program requires 8 credits in program development courses: curriculum/materials development and assessment.

Comparison of TEFL/TESL Certificate programs in the OUS

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | credits | Degree | Post-Bac | Affiliated Dept |
| PSU | 40 | B.A./B.S.  Plus Certificate | yes | Applied Linguistics |
| U of O | 26 | B.A./B.S.  Plus Certificate | yes | Linguistics |
| **WOU**  **TEFL** | 26 | B.A./B.S.  Plus Certificate | yes | Department of English, Writing and Linguistics |
| OSU  no |  |  |  |  |
| SOU  no |  |  |  |  |
| EOU  no |  |  |  |  |

TERMS

* + TEFL: Teaching English as a Foreign Language. In American usage, the term is typically used to describe the context of teaching English in international contexts outside the United States, primarily to adult and young adult learners. It may or may not have academic English as its primary goal.
  + TESL or ESL: Teaching English as a Second Language. The term may be used for contexts described in TEFL above. The term is sometimes used to refer to domestic contexts described as ESOL below.
  + ESOL/Bilingual: (English for Speakers of Other Languages). This term is used in the WOU College of Education for the Endorsement program (also widely used in programs elsewhere around the United States). The term ESOL is here used to refer to English/Bilingual contexts in Oregon schools K-12.
  + TEFL Certificate: A certification of completion for a specified set of courses focusing on foreign language acquisition and teaching usually for adult/young adults. There is no standardized accrediting body for TEFL certificates. Program requirements vary widely between on-line certificates and certificates issued via university programs. The WOU certificate proposal is comparable to other the university programs in Oregon and around the U.S.