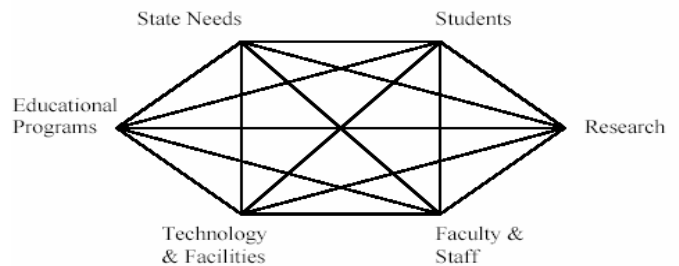


**University of Alaska Board of Regents**  
**Program Approval Summary Form**

MAU: University of Alaska Anchorage  
Title: Graduate Certificate in Language  
Education

Target admission date: Summer 2008



How does the program relate to the **Education** mission of the University of Alaska and the MAU?

The Graduate Certificate in Language Education with the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) concentration, when implemented, will help UAA continue to fulfill its mission of being “committed and uniquely situated to serve the needs of its communities, the state, and its diverse peoples.” One of those needs that must be addressed is preparing effective teachers for English as a Second Language (ESL) students. Graduates of this program will have the knowledge and skills necessary to design and implement the curricular modifications necessary to ensure the academic success of their ESL students.

There is no impact to GERs since this is a Graduate Certificate.

What Development process was followed (inside and outside UAA)

Prior to developing the program, a number of nationally recognized programs were thoroughly reviewed. In addition, the current ESOL literature was examined to ensure that the program reflected research-based, effective practice. Finally, national, state, and local colleagues in the field of ESOL were consulted about the development of this program. The program design was largely based on the national standards for teacher preparation developed by the Teachers of Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) professional organization. TESOL is an affiliate of the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), through which the UAA College of Education is accredited.

Drs. Kate O'Dell, Professor Emerita, Jim Powell, Associate Professor and Co-Chair of the Department of Teaching and Learning, and Maxine Hill, Anchorage School District Director of Bilingual and ESL programs collaborated in the development of the proposal for the Graduate Certificate in Language Education. In addition, the proposal was discussed with other College of Education faculty, the Acting Associate Dean, and the Dean. The Department of Teaching and Learning approved the program. Faculty at the University of Alaska Southeast have expressed interest in our developing this Graduate Certificate.

What **State Needs** met by this program.

There is an on-going shortage of teachers currently qualified and prepared to deal with students who are English Language Learners. Conversations with districts throughout the state have highlighted a continuing need for classroom teachers prepared to deal with their ESL students. If teachers hold an Alaska Teacher License, they are required to take courses to keep their license current and to move on the salary scale. In many instances, 500-level courses cannot be used to achieve these professional goals. Therefore, the Graduate Certificate was created to enable content area teachers to add an endorsement to

their existing license using courses that meet all requirements for professional development. The program will be available through distance education so that teachers throughout the state have the opportunity to obtain this certificate. Because Alaska is one of the most diverse states in the U.S., all organizations and individuals who provide education encounter English Language Learners. From church-run tutorial programs to the Anchorage Literacy Project, teachers can benefit from research-based, high-quality coursework that helps them design instruction in ESOL. The Graduate Certificate in Language Education is designed to be flexible and useful for teachers in non-public schools as well as those who teach English in a variety of settings throughout the world.

What are the **Student** opportunities and outcomes? **Enrollment** projections?

This Graduate Certificate is primarily designed for teachers who already hold a teaching certificate. It will allow graduates to add an ESL endorsement onto that license. Currently UAA has a degree program that allows students to obtain an initial teacher certificate in ESL, but has no way for teachers in other content areas to add an ESL endorsement to their existing licenses. This Graduate Certificate will address that need. It will provide those teachers with the skills and knowledge base necessary to meet the content needs of their ESL students.

Because this program is designed for practicing teachers, it is anticipated that the certificate candidates will take at least two years to complete it. We are projecting an enrollment of 20 to 30 students with about 10 to 15 graduates per year. Candidates will be able to obtain this Certificate while continuing in their current teaching positions. In two to three years, we expect enrollment by non-public school educators to increase. We anticipate additional enrollment from people who are working with English Language Learners in non-school settings (e.g., the Anchorage Literacy Project) both in the U.S. and overseas. The college may restrict enrollments if faculty resources do not permit expansion into this population.

Describe **Research** opportunities:

As part of their methods courses, the students will conduct Action Research projects in their classrooms. These projects will allow the candidates to make data-based decisions on how to shape their teaching practice to best meet the needs of their students.

Describe **Fiscal Plan** for development and implementation:

The English Department offers the two required Language and Linguistics courses each year without cost to the College of Education. The remaining program courses are offered through the College of Education. It is projected that existing capacity in those courses will accept the additional students in this program, so no new sections are anticipated. There are only two new courses. These courses will be taught by the reassignment of current faculty workloads resulting in no budgetary increase required.