



Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) 4+1 Accelerated Pathway

The teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL) 4+1 accelerated pathway is for students in programs leading to a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, childhood education, or combined early childhood and childhood education. The pathway initiates graduate-level coursework at the undergraduate level, providing qualified students with seamless entry to the certificate of advanced study program and an accelerated course of study toward an advanced degree.

ABOUT THE PATHWAY

Candidates in the 4+1 accelerated pathway begin graduate coursework toward the Certificate of Advanced Study (C.A.S.) during their senior year of undergraduate study. Following the completion of their bachelor's degree requirements, students are recommended for initial certification in the early childhood education, childhood education, or combined program. Candidates then continue with one semester of graduate study to fulfill the coursework requirements for recommendation for the C.A.S. and initial New York State certification in TESOL (pre-K–12). Candidates may continue graduate study in the curriculum and instruction master's degree program, applying 15 credit hours of C.A.S. coursework toward their master's degree requirements.

Candidates in the pathway must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 to begin enrollment in any graduate course in the 4 +1 pathway. For most candidates, this will be at the end of their junior year (sixth semester). In their senior year (seventh semester), candidates begin their graduate coursework with ESL 540: Second-Language Acquisition and ESL 600: English as a Second Language Methods in the semester prior to student teaching. Candidates must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and earn a minimum grade of B in graduate courses to remain in the advanced certificate program and to complete the TESOL portion of their student teaching.

Please note: Successful application for certification in TESOL requires evidence of a minimum of 12 credit hours of college-level study of a foreign language and evidence of English language proficiency (e.g., TOEFL, IELTS, local proficiency exam, or bachelor's degree from an English-speaking university) for candidates whose native language is not English. This may be demonstrated before or during the coursework for the C.A.S.

Students accepted to the 4+1 pathway must follow the curriculum map as outlined by the department in order to complete the program as scheduled. Students are formally admitted to the Graduate School following verification of completion of bachelor's degree requirements and acceptance of the graduate application. Upon formal admission to the Graduate School, earned graduate credit is applied to the graduate course of study, and all graduate policies and privileges apply. Graduate application fees are waived for students in the 4+1 accelerated pathway.

APPLYING TO THE 4+1 PROGRAM

Students enter the 4+1 pathway either as incoming freshmen or at any point in their undergraduate degree program. Students interested in the 4+1 pathway should meet with a designated TESOL adviser to discuss the application process before completing an application packet.

An acceptable application to the department will include evidence that all requirements for admission to a teacher education program have been met. The writing sample for admission to the childhood or early childhood major includes a descriptive account of the applicant's relevant teaching experience or experience with young children. Candidates applying to the 4+1 program are also required to submit a statement indicating their commitment to the TESOL 4+1 pathway and their intent to remain at Buffalo State for both undergraduate and graduate studies.

The writing sample is assessed by the faculty as an essential part of a successful application.

Application packets for the TESOL pathway are available in the Elementary Education and Reading Department, Bacon Hall 302. Please visit or call the department at (716) 878-5916 with questions or to make an appointment with a TESOL pathway adviser.

Admission Requirements General (Undergraduate)

- Entering freshmen must have a minimum high school average of 85.
- Undergraduates must submit SAT or ACT scores for successful admission to the pathway. Current Buffalo State students who are changing majors and applying in their junior year may submit GRE or MAT scores instead.
- Current students already accepted to the early childhood education, childhood education, or combined program who have completed 75 or more credit hours with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 may apply to the pathway program before their final year of undergraduate study. This application includes submission of a statement of interest in the TESOL program and intent to remain at Buffalo State for the graduate portion of the pathway.

Transfer

- Transfer students from two-year and other four-year institutions follow the same institutional admission requirements as other students transferring to Buffalo State teacher education programs.
- Acceptance to the 4 + 1 course sequence is contingent on courses completed at institutions that have transfer equivalence to courses in the Buffalo State early childhood education, childhood education, or combined program.
- Transfer students should speak to the Elementary Education and Reading Department chair or designee before applying. Please call the department (716) 878-5916 with questions or to arrange an appointment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Elementary Education and Reading Department

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