

Contact Time

Requirements and FAQs for Online Students

S-TESL students taking online classes are required to be engaged with ESOL learners while enrolled in most of our online classes (Contact Time requirements for each course listed below). This requirement may be accomplished in one of these ways:

1. You are currently teaching a class that has ESOL students.
2. You are regularly observing/assisting in an ESOL class in your community.
3. You have created your own group of students/non-native speakers who meet regularly.

Why is this required?

So you can apply what you are learning to language learners. We want you to learn from students, practice activities, and develop your teaching skills in a live classroom setting.

How much time is involved?

We expect 1-2 hours per week for the duration of the quarter (check [quarter schedule dates](#)).

What will I have to do?

The specific assignments are called “application assignments”. In them, you may:

- use your experiences with students and teachers to reflect on concepts and materials in the course;
- reflect on your own skills as a teacher;
- work with an individual student/non-native speaker to practice an activity.

What if I have never been in an ESOL class and don’t have any contacts?

Most ESOL teachers welcome volunteers in class. Be sure you tell the teacher (or administrator) that you are there to help the teacher. The teacher does not need to complete any additional paperwork (other than possible verification). We recommend you contact the volunteer coordinator at an organization or institution that has ESOL classes. This may be a K-12 school, library, church,

nonprofit organization, private language school, or college. If you are in the Seattle area, refer to this list of [organizations](#) found on our Field Experience page. If you plan to take online classes, S-TESL can provide you with a letter to introduce yourself and this requirement to others. Please contact stesladmissions@spu.edu to request this letter.

Will I have to lead the class or small groups to complete the application assignments?

No. The application assignments are designed to work for a range of contexts, and can be adapted for students who are only observing an ESOL classroom.

What if my group of students doesn't match the S-TESL course?

When registering for an online course, review the [course description](#) and consider whether the content of the class is a realistic match for the type of students you will be working with. For example, if you are taking ELT 5538 Young Learners, you will need to be engaged with students ages 5-11. If you are taking ELT 5537 Content, you should be involved in a class which teaches a content subject to non-native speakers (e.g. Social Studies, Math, Technology).

What if I only have one or two ESOL students?

Ideally, you should be observing a minimum of 3-5 students. However, if your situation does not allow this, you may still study online. Because tutoring settings do not meet the requirements for the Field Experience component of the TESOL Certificate, you will need to find an additional setting to satisfy requirements for this credential. The Field Experience requirement is six hours in a classroom setting and may be completed up to one year after completion of the TESOL Certificate coursework.

What if the application assignment doesn't work for my students?

If the activity does not seem appropriate, you will need to adapt it. Explain to the instructor why and how you adapted the activity, but always keep the purpose of the activity in mind and work to meet its original purpose.

What if my class has a break during the quarter?

If your ESOL class does not meet one week, it is still up to you to be creative and adaptive and meet the requirements of each assignment. Any issues should be discussed with your instructor.

What if I plan to take two online classes?

You may use the same contact time provided you can meet the expectations of each course. Online classes are demanding. You can expect to spend 3-6 hours per week per class on reading and assignments. This does not include the contact time. Consider your schedule carefully and plan accordingly for the 10 weeks of the quarter.

Do I need to submit documentation?

We reserve the right to ask for verification, but it is not required.

May I use this contact time to meet the overall TESOL Certificate Field Experience requirement?

Yes! In that case, print the form from the [Field Experience](#) paperwork and have your host teacher complete the verification section. You will submit this form with your TESOL Certificate application when you have finished all of your coursework.

What are some benefits of this requirement?

You will learn a great deal from the students and from the teacher. This is also a great opportunity to build professional contacts. This experience may provide you with a professional reference or even lead to a job!

Contact time profiles for each course

**ELT = English Language Teaching*

ELT 5530 Foundations of English Language Teaching

Requires weekly application assignments based on observation of ESOL students.

ELT 5532 Grammar in ELT

Requires weekly application assignments based on observation of ESOL students.

ELT 5533 Materials Development and Resources in ELT

Requires weekly application assignments based on observation of ESOL students.

ELT 5534 Reading and Writing in ELT

Requires weekly application assignments based on observation of ESOL students in a class where reading and writing are taught.

ELT 5535 Pronunciation in ELT

Requires weekly application assignments, focusing on student pronunciation awareness and production practice. Students may work with an individual non-native speaker at a beginner to intermediate level (a classroom is not necessary) for a minimum of 1 hour per week. Students need to be able to record and upload non-native speech for the final project (.mp3, .wav or .swf files).

ELT 5536 Cultural Issues in ELT

Concurrent contact time is not required for this class; however, online students are required to have had previous contact in an ESOL classroom. In addition, online students will need occasional access to non-native speakers for the purposes of two assignments, particularly the learner profile assignment, which requires a one-on-one interview.

ELT 5537 Content Based ELT

Requires weekly application assignments, focusing on the development of content area knowledge. Additional requirements are:

- Obtain a content textbook designed for native speakers (i.e. a high school social studies textbook or a college level business textbook), so students need to be able to obtain such books (library, used bookstore, etc.) at the start of the course. If you are traveling or living overseas, this may be difficult, so plan accordingly.
- Communicate (by email) with a content-area teacher who has some ESOL students for the purposes of some assignments (i.e. a community college health care teacher or a high school science teacher).

ELT 5538 Young Learners and ELT

Requires weekly application assignments based on classroom observation with English Language Learners ages 5-11.

ELT 5539 Teaching English for Specific Purposes

Concurrent contact time is not required for this class; however, online students

are required to have had previous experience in an ESOL classroom or with non-native speakers in some capacity.

ELT 5542 Assessment of English Language Students

Requires weekly application assignments based on observation of ESOL students.

ELT 5545 Classroom Issues and Management

For students planning to apply this course to the SPU Advanced Certificate in TESOL 40 hours of contact time in an ESOL classroom is required. For students applying this course to the WA State ELL/Bilingual Endorsement, the contact time must be in a K-12 setting and the classroom contact time can range between 20-30 hours. Activities include:

- Comment on and ask your classmates questions about specific things that happen in the ELL class that are related to the topic of the week in the online class.
- Describe attitudes, learning styles, learning preferences, and learning strategies of the ELL students. These descriptions can come from observations or interviews.
- Record (video or audio) yourself or another teacher and analyze according to the topic of the week. This will happen each week in modules two through eight. (It is sometimes possible to analyze one recorded lesson for different topics and in different modules.)

ELT 5546 Professionalism, Advocacy and Leadership

Does not require concurrent contact time. This class is required for WA State ELL Endorsement candidates only.

ELT 5547 Bilingual Education

This class does not require current contact time. However, it expects previous experience in an ESOL/ELL classroom. Familiarity with public school settings in the U.S. is expected. Requires research and the ability to contact professionals in the field (K-12 ELL professionals) on occasion.