

## ESL Endorsement FAQs

->When does the program begin and for how long does it last? When is the last date to apply for the next program start date?

- The long range schedule of coursework will look different depending on when you decide to start the program. You can apply at any time, but the deadlines depend on the semester you plan to start. Here is a link with the deadlines according to the programs: <http://www.unomaha.edu/graduate-studies/programs-and-deadlines.php>

- The ESL endorsement program consists of 15 credits hours (3 Required courses and 2 electives) and 45 hours of practicum included as part of TED 8055 and TED 8006. You don't need to worry about additional cost for the 45 hours as they are going to be part of the two courses mentioned above and do not require extra credit hours. Most courses are offered only one semester, so the options for requirements and electives may look different. For example, if you start in the Spring semester the schedule would look as follows.

- ❖ Spring- TED 8055/Foundations of ESL. Elective options: TED 8180- Culturally Responsive Teaching or TED 9110- Principles and Practices for Teaching Reading
- ❖ Summer- TED 8130/Language, Culture, and Power. Elective option: TED 8800 Multicultural Lit for Children & Youth (every other Spring and every summer)
- ❖ Fall- TED 8006/ESL Methods (only offered in the fall). Elective option: TED 8180 Culturally Responsive Teaching

Therefore, it will only take you three semesters (about a year) to complete the ESL Endorsement. See the "tentative schedule of courses" for some sample schedule options. With the exception of courses that are offered in the summer, all courses are in the evenings or weekends. I usually recommend students not take the ESL methods class until their last semester. You will receive your endorsement as soon as you finish all 15 credits.

->Online vs. in-class courses

At the moment none of the required classes are offered online. The only

class that is offered partially online is Culturally Responsive Teaching.

->Does UNO also offer a Master's in ESL/ELL? If one completes only the endorsement now, is it possible to earn the Master's at a later time, using the endorsement classes already completed? If so, how many years does one have to complete the Master's?

- We offer Master's Programs in Elementary, Secondary, and Literacy with a concentration on ESL. The time depends on how many classes you are able to take per semester. You are required to take a total of 36 credit hours. You can definitely come back and get your master's at a later time using the graduate level classes you have completed. Just make sure you don't let pass more than 10 years or the courses won't count.

->What are the pros and cons of completing either the endorsement or the Master's program? Is it harder to find a job if one has a Master's, but very little teaching experience?

- It all depends on the school district that you are looking to get hired in. Some of our graduate students get hired right away without the master's and others don't, so it is difficult to know how much the districts weigh in having a master's degree and/or experience.

->Are the costs of the program the same as regular undergraduate or graduate credits? Are financial aid/scholarship options applicable? Is there a possibility to complete a Graduate Assistant position at the same time as the endorsement program?

- As it is customary, the cost for graduate level credits are higher than undergraduate ones. Here is a helpful website: <http://cashiering.unomaha.edu/tuition.php> with the exact cost.

- When it comes to scholarships, there are some internal scholarships that you get access to once you start your program. In the meantime look at this website from graduate studies with more information on other scholarships: <https://www.unomaha.edu/graduate-studies/financing-your-degree/scholarships.php>. Assistantships are usually for full time graduate students pursuing a master's program and you can find them through the UNO employment website. Here is another helpful website: <https://www.unomaha.edu/graduate-studies/financing-your->

[degree/assistantships.php](#)

->Is it possible for one to become ESL endorsed in Nebraska and then transfer the endorsement to teach in another state?

- You need to look at the interstate agreement of the state you are moving to. Some states take it as it is from Nebraska, but it depends on each state and they may require some other classes.

->When I have completed my course requirements, how do I apply for my Nebraska ESL endorsement?

- Apply: [Complete the online application.](#)
- Pay your fee: Send fee as directed on the application.
- Submit Official Transcripts: Order transcripts through your UNO account as directed on the application.
- Apply for Institutional Verification: The College will complete the Institutional Verification and send it to the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE).
- Contact Nicole Kelleher with your name, NUID, and the purpose of your application to NDE. Nicole is available via email at [unocertification@unomaha.edu](mailto:unocertification@unomaha.edu) or by phone at [402.554.2718](tel:402.554.2718)