

Education (Endorsement) - English as a Second Language Podcast

Hello, my name is Maggie and I am a staff member in The Graduate School at Grand Valley State University. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Grand Valley's English as a Second Languages (ESL) endorsement program. Today we're going to cover the admissions process, program requirements, and the qualities that distinguish this program.

Let's start by explaining to you what this program entails. The ESL endorsement program will prepare both pre-service and in-service teachers to teach and work with students and their parents whose home language is not English in K-12 school settings through lecture and field hours and courses. The ESL endorsement is an add-on certification, which requires candidates to have a valid teaching licensure to add the endorsement through the Michigan Department of Education process. This is a 24 credit hour program and can be completed in a minimum of 1-1.5 years as a full-time student or 1.5-2 years as a part-time student.

Currently, with the K-12 school population becoming more diverse throughout the U.S, the ESL endorsement ensures that candidates have the knowledge, skills, and credentials to teach and/or work with English Learners in their schools or classrooms.

Standard Grand Valley admission requirements include completion of the online application as well as a Bachelor's degree *or* potential to obtain a Bachelor's degree with a teaching license from an accredited institution of higher education. You will use the ESOL online application to apply for the ESL endorsement program. Your application must include official transcripts, and if English is not your native language you must provide scores from one of our approved standardized tests such as the PTE Academic, TOEFL, IELTS, or Dulingo. There is a \$30 nonrefundable application fee, however this fee is waived if you attended Grand Valley previously or are currently attending Grand Valley.

The specific admission requirements for the ESL endorsement are that you will need to submit all your previous transcripts with a minimum GPA at 3.0, a submitted ESOL application, and \$30 application fee. If your GPA is lower than 3.0, you may be accepted into the program with conditions.

More program details as well as the online application can be found on the English as a Second Language website, www.gvsu.edu/gsonlinehybrid-and-certificate-programs-26.htm.

The great news about Grand Valley's graduate programs is that tuition rates do not change based on residency status. In other words, there are no extra costs for being an out of state student. Current tuition costs and information about scholarships and financial aid can be found at www.gvsu.edu/financialaid or by calling 616-331-3234. For information on graduate assistantships, please contact The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu.

The ESL program at Grand Valley is a 24-credit program. To support students' learning, each course has a field component, which has 10-30 hours field work based on the course content and requirements. Specifically, 21 credit hours will cover the theories, frameworks, strategies, and policies of teaching English learners. An additional 3 credit hours will be dedicated to the Practicum, which is a field-based course where students spend the majority of the time in the field that is associated with their own teaching interest. For a complete listing of all courses please visit www.gvsu.edu/gsonlinehybrid-and-certificate-programs-26.htm and download the interactive pdf form.

The ESL Certificate program is approved as a fully online offering program. This provides the course instructors with the opportunities to offer online accommodations to students who are out of the State of

Michigan or who live more than 45 miles away from where the classes are offered. The majority of the courses are offered in an eight-week hybrid format on weekends to accommodate the busy schedule of teachers, school administrators, and other staff who are and will be working with the English learners.

That is just a snapshot of the ESL graduate endorsement program at Grand Valley State University. We hope that you will consider applying to the graduate program at GVSU. Any questions can be directed to the Graduate Program Director, Dr. Rui Niu-Cooper, at niucoope@gvsu.edu, or to The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu. Thank you for your time and we hope you have enjoyed this podcast.