

Bilingual/English as a Second Language Endorsement

Definitions:

- An **English as a Second Language (ESL)** Endorsement is an endorsement that allows licensed teachers to teach content subject matter in English to English Learners. One does not need to be bilingual to obtain the ESL endorsement.
- A **Bilingual Endorsement** is an endorsement that allows licensed teachers to teach content subject matter to English Learners both in English and the students' native language. One needs to be bilingual in English and another language to obtain this endorsement.

Requirements:

- Both the ESL and Bilingual Endorsements are valid only if one already has a teaching licensure (new ISBE language) or teaching certification (i.e. Type 03, 04, 09, 10 – past ISBE language).
- To qualify for the ESL and/or bilingual Endorsement, one must have taken the following six courses (18 credits):

Undergraduate	Class Title	Graduate	Class Title
LTIC 301	Teaching with Multicultural Perspective	LTIC 501	Multicultural Education-Methods and Materials
LTIC 400	Intro to Teaching English Language Learners	EPFE 505	Foundations of Language-Minority Education
LTIC 420	Methods and Materials for Teaching English Language Learners in Content Area	LTIC 520	Methods and Materials for Teaching English as a Second Language in Content Areas
LTIC 445	Applied Linguistics of Teachers of English Language Learners	LTIC 545	Applied Linguistics for Teachers in Multilingual Classrooms
LTIC 435	Teaching English Language Learners in Bilingual Programs: Methods and Materials	LTIC 535	Teaching Language-Minority Students in Bilingual Programs-Methods and Materials
LTIC 447	Assessment of English Language Learners	LTIC 547	Assessment of Language-Minority Students

Bilingual/English As a Second Language Endorsement (page 2)

- To qualify, one must also possess 100 clock hours of bilingual or ESL clinical experience OR three months teaching experience in bilingual or ESL programs. Although this requirement is met by embedded activities within the 6 classes that lead to the endorsement, it is highly recommended to have actual teaching experience with English Learners during your program of study.
- To obtain the bilingual endorsement one must take the same 6 classes listed above, but also pass a language proficiency exam in the language other than English. Refer to the Illinois Certification Testing System Registration Bulletin (<http://www.icts.nesinc.com/>) for test dates.

Procedures:

- To obtain the Bilingual or ESL Endorsement, after you have taken the six classes, you must complete an application that can be obtained from your local Regional of Education (ROE) or on-line. The ISBE will notify you of your obtaining the endorsement. NIU does not give the endorsement, only the classes to obtain the endorsement.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. How many courses must I take? *The 6 required courses total 18 credit hours,*
2. At NIU in the Elementary Education Program, I am required to take LTIC 420 and LTIC 301 as part of my program of study. Will these courses count towards the endorsement if I graduate and then take the rest of the courses at the graduate level?
Yes, once you have taken any of the endorsement courses, you do not have to repeat them.
3. When are the classes offered? *The Department of Literacy Education is currently attempting to offer these classes on a rotation basis. Please see MYNIU to see classes available each semester.*
4. Is there a specific order in which I should take these classes? *Take the courses as you find them available. Save LTIC 447/547 for your last class. We recommend to take is LTIC 447/547 after completion of the other courses.*
5. If I take some of the courses as an undergraduate, can I finish the others as a graduate student? *Yes. Students can register for courses at the graduate level by registering as a student-at-large [SAL].*
6. Do I need a placement or special permission to take the classes? *No.*