

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The ESOL Adult Education Certificate in New Hampshire Offered in Cooperation with International Language Institute (ILI)

Applications are now being accepted for new participants for the 2007-2008 school year. Interested New Hampshire ESOL teachers should complete an application and send it to me by October 15, 2007. Openings will depend on funding. *Debbie Tasker 8/1/07*

What is the purpose of the certificate?

The certificate framework allows ESOL teachers to demonstrate that they have the knowledge and skills required for high quality teaching of ESOL to adult learners.

How will it work?

The certificate will be awarded by the New Hampshire Bureau of Adult Education to people who successfully complete the activities outlined in a framework which includes workshops, reflection papers, and classroom observation.

What is the value of the certificate for you, the teacher?

The primary values are assurance of professional growth and perhaps a sense of self-satisfaction—the opportunity to reflect on and apply what you learn in staff development workshops, with guidance from ILI experts; to enhance your own teaching skills; and to develop a comprehensive portfolio demonstrating your learning.

And what the certificate can NOT do.

The portfolio you create may become a valuable asset to you as a professional, but the ESOL Adult Education Certificate will NOT constitute certification for public school teaching and there are no guarantees that it will increase your employment opportunities.

What is the value of the certificate for New Hampshire adult education?

Many ESOL teachers are already dedicated participants in professional development. The certificate program adds extra value to their participation. It gives new teachers a framework to guide their professional development. It will allow the most committed and experienced adult educators to demonstrate their expertise.

Ultimately, certificate holders will have an opportunity to provide leadership in the field by presenting training and helping with classroom observations.

For all who participate, the reflection and observation pieces of the certificate program will connect staff development to practice, leading to high quality instruction for learners.

What's involved in getting the certificate?

Components include the following:

- Adult learning theory, which may be learned through...
 - Workshops on theory
 - Reading and reflection about adult learning theory
 - College courses on theory
- ESOL curriculum, which may be learned through...
 - Workshops on curriculum—syllabus and methods
 - Reading and reflection about curriculum
 - College courses on ESOL curriculum
- Classroom observation
 - Candidate observation of other teachers
 - Observations of the candidate's teaching by ILI staff or designated ESOL certificate holders
- Reflection
 - Reflection papers about readings
 - Reflection papers about learning from workshops
 - Development of a portfolio
- Application—a final project

When a new certificate candidate is accepted, he/she will work with an ILI staff member to develop an appropriate plan for completing these components, based on the candidate's current position and his/her prior experience and training.

Customization of the certificate program

- **For teachers who have been working in NH adult education programs for a year or more**
 - ✓ You may count your participation in previous workshops given by ILI staff and other approved training.
 - ✓ You may continue to join appropriate workshops while doing reading, reflection papers, and observations.
- **For new adult education teachers who have degrees in ESOL teaching**
 - ✓ You may count appropriate college ESOL courses in lieu of workshops.
 - ✓ You may work on reflection papers, observations, and a final project.
- **For teachers new to the field**
 - ✓ You may start out with readings assigned by ILI staff.
 - ✓ You may join workshops and work on reflection papers and observations.

Questions and Answers about the ESOL Certificate Program

Which workshops count for the certificate program?

Workshops given by ILI staff in New Hampshire during past years will count toward the certificate. A list is available from the NH Bureau of Adult Education. Other professional development activities will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by NH Staff Development personnel and submitted to ILI. *If you think you may be interested in the certificate program in the future, be sure to keep notes about all the staff development workshops you attend.*

How does the certificate program affect workshop participation and stipends?

The NH Bureau of Adult Education will continue to offer a variety of ESOL workshops to adult educators as in the past, open to all on a first-come, first-served basis. When stipends are offered for workshop participation, the stipends will be available to all, whether or not they are participating in the certificate program.

Will there be stipends for time spent working on the Certificate outside of workshops?

No stipends can be provided for the time participants spend in reading, writing reflection papers, creating a portfolio, talking with ILI representatives, taking part in observations, or planning, conducting, and documenting their application activities. However, people who must travel to make a classroom observation will be eligible for mileage reimbursement at the approved rate used by Second Start.

Who can join the certificate program?

When certificate slots are open (depending on funding), participation in certificate components—reflection papers, observations, and portfolio and application assessment—will be open to all ESOL adult educators who make a commitment to continue teaching in adult education for the coming year. If the Bureau of Adult Education must limit participation because of cost or availability of ILI consultants, decisions will be made by staff development personnel from the New Hampshire Literacy Resource Center and the Bureau of Adult Education (currently Pat Nelson and Debbie Tasker.)

How long will it take to complete the certificate?

The time will, of course, depend on how much prior experience and training an applicant has and how much time the candidate is willing to invest. The Bureau of Adult Education will make every effort (though not guarantee) to provide appropriate staff development workshops and support so that people who “start from scratch” will be able to complete the certificate within three years.

Applications will be accepted at any time. If there are no current openings in the NH Adult Education ESOL Certificate Program, applications will be saved for consideration the next time openings occur.

Please contact Debbie Tasker at the NH Bureau of Adult Education if you have questions about the NH Adult Education ESOL Certificate. Contact Debbie by telephone at (603)271-6701, by email at dtasker@ed.state.nh.us or send a note to the following address: Debbie Tasker, Bureau of Adult Education, Division of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation, NH Department of Education, 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 20, Concord, NH 03301.