

Practical Experiences in Adult English Language Teaching

While pursuing the International Track of the Master of Arts in Education (MAEd), which focuses on teaching ESL/EFL to adult language learners, UAB students will proceed through the following four stages of practical experiences: Pre-Practicum (100 hours), GRD 704 Shadowing, EESL 687 Practicum Seminar (100 hours), and EESL 697 Practicum (100 hours). The purpose of these experiences is to provide a variety of opportunities for students to explore and experience multiple facets of adult English language teaching (ELT).

Pre-Practicum (100 clock hours in ELT classrooms)

Students are expected to do 100 pre-practicum hours through a combination of the following: observing ESL teaching in a variety of community programs, assisting in a class for the teaching of English to adult English language learners (ELLs), tutoring adult ELLs in an institutional setting (e.g., UAB), teaching as a volunteer in a community ESL program for adult learners, and/or teaching as a paid instructor in an adult ESL program. Students begin accumulating their pre-practicum hours as early as possible in their MAEd program. Of these 100 pre-practicum hours, students should spend at least 60 hours teaching or tutoring. Students record the hours of each experience on a timesheet that is available at: http://www.ed.uab.edu/esl/recording_prepracitum.pdf. They should also ask someone at each of the host institutions to sign this timesheet. After finishing all 100 pre-practicum hours and after completing most of their courses, students are eligible to enroll in EESL 687.

GRD 704 Specialized Instruction (shadowing)

Students shadow a Graduate School instructor during his/her Academic English course in either Academic Writing or Oral Communication. This course consists of two 90-minute classes each week for 10 weeks. In addition to assisting the instructor, students are expected to keep daily logs, submit weekly reflections to the GRD 704 supervisor, and meet regularly with this supervisor. Students can take GRD 704 simultaneously with EESL 687 or else in the semester immediately before or after EESL 687. *NOTE: Since this shadowing experience is a credit-bearing course, the shadowing hours are in addition to the pre-practicum hours.*

EESL 687 ESL Practicum Seminar (100 clock hours in classrooms, at ELT institutions, and in research)

Students attend six seminars. The first four seminars take place during the third week of June: Tuesday evening, Thursday evening, Saturday morning, and Saturday afternoon. The last two seminars take place during the fourth week of June: Tuesday evening and Thursday evening. In these seminars, students discuss selected research from areas of TESOL relevant to the different specialties in adult ELT. After the completion of these seminars, the instructor guides each student in scheduling the activities listed below. Some students may need two semesters (summer and fall) to complete all four components:

<u>Component #1:</u> Intensive English Programs (IEP)	15 hours observing IEP classes & interviewing teachers
<u>Component #2:</u> Program Administration	40 hours assisting with ELCI projects
<u>Component #3:</u> English as a Foreign Language (EFL)	20 hours research project or teaching EFL abroad thru UAB
<u>Component #4:</u> English for Occupational Purposes (EOP)	25 hours doing related ELT assignments

EESL 697 ESL Practicum: Adult ELLs (100 clock hours)

Students do observations, teach a semester-long course, participate in debriefings, attend monthly EESL 697 classes, and maintain weekly communication (email/phone) with the instructor. The instructor serves as a liaison to schedule teaching and observing. At the teaching placement, each student is supervised by the instructor and host institution. (If this placement is beyond the Birmingham area, the student must reimburse the instructor for mileage at the current rate.) Some students may need two semesters to complete all five components:

<u>Component #5:</u> English for Academic Purposes (EAP)	20 hours observing EAP classes (different from GRD 704)
<u>Component #6:</u> English for General Purposes (EGP)	20 hours observing EGP classes
<u>Component #7:</u> Peer Observations (5 at 2 hours each)	10 hours observing other EESL 697 students teach
<u>Component #8:</u> Teaching (and being observed)	25 hours teaching (with observations by the instructor)
<u>Component #9:</u> EESL 697 classes and debriefing sessions	25 hours interacting and reflecting with others