

Portfolio Requirement for Candidacy to the MA TESL Degree
(Revised Guidelines, April 28, 2009)

The School of Education requires all of its graduate programs, including the MA TESL program, to have performance-based means for measuring student learning. Thus, in addition to exams you may have taken, we rely on your papers, projects, and teaching demonstrations to verify your mastery of the content, communication skills, teaching skills, critical thinking, lesson planning, etc.

As a result, all MA TESL students who have completed **eighteen credits** (18) of course work must submit a portfolio to demonstrate their eligibility to continue in the graduate program and qualify for degree candidacy. The portfolio must be submitted within a month following an admitted student's completion of eighteen credits. It may not be submitted prior to the student's having completed a second semester of study as an MA TESL candidate.

The portfolio will be reviewed by two members of the MA TESL graduate committee who will evaluate the submission based on the attached scoring rubric. For each of the relevant domains and standards addressed in the rubric, the candidate must provide a one- page (double-spaced, typed) self-evaluation of how well he or she has met the standard. The candidate should reference specific documents (or sections of larger documents) contained in the portfolio as further evidence of having met the standard; however, the written justification regarding the degree to which the candidate believes he or she has met the standard should be contained within one page self-evaluations. These self-evaluations will be examined closely by the committee reviewing the portfolio.

Students who have followed the regular course sequence will address domains 1, 3, and 5, and the specific standards 1a, 1b, 3a, 3b, 3c, 5a and 5c.1. The supporting evidence to the self-evaluations might include copies of major projects and papers completed in the following core MA TESL classes:

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| EDUC 627: | Models of Instruction |
| EDUC 672: | Teaching English as a Second Language |
| LING 677: | The Structure of English |
| EDUC 740 | Literacy Instruction for English Language Learners |
| LING 676 | Second Language Acquisition |
| FLLT 622: | Language Syllabus Design |

Students who have taken EDUC 619 (Cultural Diversity) or FLLT 624 (Second Language Testing) prior to submitting the portfolio should also address domain 2, standards 2a and 2b (for EDUC 619) and domain 4, standards 4a, 4b, 4c (for FLLT 624).

Where possible, your submission should include one or more examples from at least four of the following six categories:

- *a sample lesson plan you developed,
- *any portfolio you might have completed for a previous course,
- *a video of a presentation or teaching performance,
- *any assessment instrument you might have developed,
- *a compilation of research papers you might have completed, and
- *a sample of teaching materials developed by you as part of or a result of your MA TESL program.

For all individual submissions of papers, projects, or other entries, include the professor-graded copy, where possible. In addition, precede each paper or project with the initial description of the assignment provided by the professor, either as a handout or in the course syllabus.

VERY IMPORTANT! Your portfolio must be uploaded and submitted through Livetext. It cannot be evaluated any other way. Please go to the livetext website (www.livetext.com) and register to use the site. Please go to the LiveText website (www.livetext.com) and 'buy online' to use the site. Once you have purchased LiveText, follow these instructions to 'create' your MA TESL 18 credit portfolio:

From the 'My Work' screen, click on 'Create'

Choose Folder 'University of Delaware - Portfolio'

Choose Template 'TESL 18 Credit Portfolio'

Give it a name and click on 'Create Document'

Now you are ready to begin editing your document. If you have problems, try the Help button in the upper right corner of every screen or email 'help' using the link at the lower right corner of every screen

Once you have set up your Livetext account and have uploaded your portfolio, you need to grant me (Dr. Stevens, sstevens@udel.edu), as well as other MA TESL committee members access to see and review your submission. Other committee members include: Dr. Gabriel Hermon (gaby@udel.edu); Dr. Gail Rys (gailrys@udel.edu); Joseph Matter (jwm@udel.edu) and Deborah Detzel (debdetzl@udel.edu).

A student whose portfolio earns an overall rating of “acceptable” or “exemplary” will be eligible to continue toward degree completion. It is possible to receive an unacceptable rating in two of the fourteen categories and still qualify to continue toward your degree. Should you earn a rating of “unacceptable” in three or more areas, you will be asked to meet with your advisor and the program coordinator to determine a course of action that will be in your best interest.

I wish you every success on this project.

Dr. Scott Stevens,
MA TESL Coordinator
School of Education