COLLEGE OF LETTERS, ARTS, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Proposed Catalog Changes

Effective Term (unless otherwise noted) = Summer 2015

English

1. Change the curricular requirements of Teaching English as a Second Language (M.A.)

Master of Arts in Teaching English as a Second Language. The M.A. in TESL is intended for students who are interested in learning to teach English as a second language at the post-secondary level. The students take courses work-in linguistics and in language teaching pedagogy. This curriculum methods that curriculum provides them with both theoretical background and practical training in the areas of second language acquisition field. Students take course work in theoretical and applied linguistics and in teaching methods.

Of the minimum of 33 credits required for the degree, at least 24 must be earned while enrolled in residence at UI, and at least 21 credits must be earned in courses numbered 500 and above. The 33 credits are to include the following courses (18 credits):

- mandatory courses, namely, ENGL 510 SL: Descriptive Linguistics
- ENGL 510-SL: Second Language Acquisition
- ENGL 513 ESL Methods I
- ENGL 515 ESL Teaching Practicum
- ENGL 517 Intro to Applied Linguistics
- and ENGL 544 Sociolinguistics.

The remaining 15 credits are to be taken in approved electives in the Department of English. At least 12 credits are to be taken from approved courses in language and linguistics, 12 credits are to be taken from approved courses in pedagogy (at least 9 of these credits are to be from English department courses), and 9 credits are to be taken from approved electives in English and education. At least 21 credits must be earned in courses numbered 500 and above.

The M.A. in TESL offers a thesis option. Students will write either a thesis in addition to 27 credits of classes, or take 33 credits of classes. Students who do not elect to write a thesis must complete their non-thesis option in the form of a comprehensive examination.

Native speakers of English in the TESL program must complete or have completed two years of college work (or its equivalent) in a modern foreign language. They must have studied a foreign language for at least one semester (or equivalent) within the preceding five years. Non-native speakers of English are excused from this requirement.

In the second year candidates will take a comprehensive examination on linguistics, pedagogy and TESL theory, and teaching methodology.

Rationale: The current curriculum has no specified required courses. The proposed changes insure that students know that they will be required to take the specified courses, which conform to the TESL curriculum recommended by TESOL International, the major professional organization in the field. Conforming to the TESOL Guidelines also insures that our graduates will be acceptable to all ESL programs that are accredited by TESOL.