

Are You an ESL Preferred Instructor?

ESL Standards Proficient Instructor Training participants must be “ESL Preferred Instructors” as described on the ESL Instructional Staff Professional Pathway. You must meet the five criteria listed below before registering for ESL Standards Proficient Instructor Training. Program administrators are responsible for verifying that instructors meet these eligibility requirements before registering for training. The checklist below can be used to determine if the criteria has been met.

- 1. Proficiency in oral and written English
- 2. Technology/Digital Literacy proficiency
- 3. Completion of professional development relevant to ESL
- 4. Experience with English language learners
- 5. Training or coursework in ESL teaching methodology ([see information below](#))

Methodology Requirement for “ESL Preferred Instructor”

ESL Instructors can meet the ESL methodology requirement for “ESL Preferred Instructor” with one of the four following credential options:

Option 1: MA TESOL

Option 2: ESL Endorsement on K-12 state teaching license

Option 3: ESL Certificate from a recognized institution of higher education

Option 4: Two Online Courses from LINCS: *Second Language Acquisition* and *Principles of Second Language Teaching* (see below)

ESL instructors may take the following two LINCS online courses to meet the Preferred Instructor methodology requirement. Both courses are required to meet the ESL methodology requirement of “ESL Preferred Instructor.” These courses are based on current research and practice in the field of adult ESL and provide a strong foundation for effective ESL instruction. The first course addresses second language acquisition, methodology, and how languages are taught and learned. It lays the foundation for the second course which further addresses ESL methodology, in particular communicative language teaching, which is the evidence-based method widely used in adult ESL programs.

The courses can be accessed online at <https://lincs.ed.gov/> at any time (select “Learning Portal” at the top of the home page). The courses are free and certificates are generated by LINCS upon completion of the courses.

1. **Second Language Acquisition: Myths, Beliefs, and What the Research Shows**

(ELL-U OC01)

This 2-hour methodology course offers participants introductory, research-based information on second language acquisition (SLA) by exploring common myths and beliefs about how languages are taught and learned. This course will counter or clarify popular views about SLA and help course participants examine, develop, challenge, and support their knowledge and beliefs about how adults learn a new language. Since this course focuses specific attention on SLA issues relevant to the population of learners served in adult ESL classes, teachers will gain practical knowledge that can be immediately put into practice.

2. **Principles of Second Language Teaching: Planning, Implementing, and Managing Instruction**

(ELL-U OC05)

This 3.5 hour methodology course provides an overview of the basics of planning, implementing, and managing instruction in classrooms with adult ELLs. The course is organized into three key components in teaching adult ELLs: 1) know the communicative needs of students 2) plan lessons that integrate communication skills with academic, life skills, work-readiness, and civics content, and 3) implement student-centered instruction practices and classroom management strategies.

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