Massachusetts and U.S. classrooms include students whose first language is not English. English language learners (ELLs) face learning a new language and culture while simultaneously meeting the same academic standards as English-speaking classmates. The TEACHING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE program prepares knowledgeable, compassionate, committed educators who create learning environments that work for ELLs and value their contributions. This program is for educators who want to get to know these students and help them learn. Faculty are veteran professionals with broad knowledge of language acquisition and cultural factors that affect learning, and experience with best classroom practices. They model relevant pedagogy, encouraging students to value their prior knowledge as a foundation to discuss new ideas, read and write critically, collaborate, apply new skills, and demonstrate and assess their own learning.

All courses in the ESL program present nationally recognized research-based models for first and second language learning that address the curriculum and developmental characteristics of students in grades PreK-6, 5-12, and adult levels. Participants explore the implications for teaching and learning at each level, and apply the course concepts to their target level.

Learning Outcomes — Students will understand language acquisition; cultural factors affecting achievement; and current theory, research, and best practices for English literacy. They will use research-based ESL methods to help ELLs achieve proficiency in English, and Sheltered English Instruction (SEI) strategies to enable them to meet content standards. Students will plan curriculum, deliver effective instruction, manage a classroom, promote equity, and meet professional responsibilities.

Careers — Candidates who complete the ESL Licensure program are qualified to teach ESL in schools, educational collaborative, and community programs. They are also qualified for the Massachusetts SEI Teacher Endorsement. Non-licensure graduates are able to provide ESL support and tutoring in schools; and to teach/tutor ESL in other settings including higher education intensive ESL, other countries, immigrant support programs, and workplace ESL.

Admissions requirements: Bachelor's degree and other general requirements.

Matriculation: All new students must register for the non-licensure option until they pass the MA Communication & Literacy Test (MTEL).

Non-licensure option: All program components are required except the Practicum, Practicum Seminar and teacher tests. Non-licensure students must complete all pre-practicum hours embedded in the courses.

Satisfactory academic progress — All students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 or be placed on academic probation.

Program and course schedule subject to change.

Professional Seminar & Project .................7 credits
ESL691N-ESL692N Professional Seminar (2 terms @ 2 credits)
ESL800 Independent Learning Project (take with Seminar II)

Courses .............................................. 27 credits
ESL615 Methods and Materials for English as a Second Language
ESL610 Linguistics & Language Variations
ESL620 Teaching Reading & Writing to ESL Students
ESL625 Technology for Linguistically Diverse Classrooms
ESL630 Equitable Assessment of ESL Learners
ESL640 Identification & Instruction of ESL Learners with Disabilities & Limited Formal Schooling
ESL631 Second-Language Acquisition & Culture
ESL635 Sheltered English Instruction & Assessment
ESL650 Teaching Content to ESL Learners

All courses 3 credits except as noted.

Practicum Prerequisites
• Pass all teacher tests required by the state for this license. Massachusetts: Communication & Literacy and English as a Second Language (MTEL). Take English as a Second Language test (MTEL) in Spring term.
• Pre-Practicum — 75 hours in diverse settings (0 credit).
• Pass all required courses (includes Sheltered English Instruction).

Practicum (licensure students only) .................5 credits
ESL790 Practicum — 300 hours (3 credits)

Guided and evaluated by a licensed/certified ESL teacher in the classroom and a Cambridge College ESL supervisor. Practicum locations are subject to MA DESE regulations and must be approved by the program chair. Students are responsible for discussing options for practicum with the program chair.

ESL790A Practicum (PreK-6) or ESL790B Practicum (5-12)

ESL791 Practicum Seminar (2 credits)
Exit Performance Portfolio required for credit.

Massachusetts Sheltered English Instruction (SEI) Endorsement: Completers of this ESL licensure program will be eligible to apply for both the Mass. ESL Initial License and the Mass. SEI Teacher Endorsement. Therefore, ESL licensure candidates are NOT required to pass the SEI Content License Endorsement Course (SEI605) or the SEI MTEL. However, ESL licensure candidates are encouraged to audit the SEI Content License Endorsement Course that non-ESL academic colleagues receive, to prepare to collaborate closely with these SEI academic teachers in their schools. SEI605 course auditors will also build their ESL “teacher leadership toolkit” as they reinforce SEI instructional practices in the school. Note: As part of the RETELL initiative, the MA DESE plans to offer an ESL teacher leadership course, to assist ESL teachers in enhancing supports for ELLs in schools and districts. (Source: MA DESE 2013. The SEI Endorsement: A District Implementation Guide. April 2013. Malden MA.)