v. Spring 2022

**TESOL Minor FAQ**

**What is UCA’s TESOL minor?**

Our TESOL minor is an academic program requiring 21 credit hours of coursework: seven courses at 3 credit hours each. This minor provides a broad foundation in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics, including Second Language Acquisition. Check out the current requirements here: <https://uca.edu/wlan/files/2020/02/TESOL-Minor-2020.pdf>

**Why should I get a minor in TESOL or a BA in Linguistics with the TESOL track?**

A large number of our students are planning to teach English abroad after graduation. Students with a minor in TESOL or a BA in Linguistics are better prepared to teach, as we require students to take courses that help them understand how students acquire a second language, methods of teaching a second language, and assessing second language students. Students also gain an in-depth understanding of how languages work and how the grammar of a language (any language) works, as well as the issues concerning bilingual education, language planning and policy, and literacy education. While it is true that many schools overseas and many companies will hire graduates with any degree, they prefer and increasingly seek out students with degrees in Education, Linguistics, English, or Writing, especially with TESOL courses such as we offer. Every single one of our students who graduated with the TESOL minor or Linguistics degree who then sought a job teaching English in another country has obtained one. Every student who wished to continue their education by earning an MA in TESOL has been accepted into a program. Alumni of the TESOL minor and the TESOL track in the Linguistics BA program have gotten jobs teaching English in dozens of countries, from Mongolia to Morocco. Several are currently working in Japan on the JET Program.

**Does UCA’s TESOL minor lead to a ‘TESOL Certificate’?**

No. Note that ‘TESOL(/TESL/TEFL) Certificate’ is not a regulated or standardized qualification, and different programs offer different content, different levels of rigor, and different time commitments. Learn more about best practices with this publication from TESOL International, titled ‘Standards for Short-Term TEFL/TESL Certificate Programs’: <https://www.tesol.org/advance-the-field/standards/standards-for-short-term-tefl-tesl-certificate-programs>

**Does UCA’s TESOL minor qualify, certify, or license me to teach English or ESL at a school in the United States?**

No. This minor does not lead to teacher licensure for K-12 schools in the United States.

**I did research on companies offering TESOL certificates, and I found a lot of programs for ‘80 hours’ or ‘100 hours’. What does this mean?**

Certificate programs are based on clock hours, so ‘80 hours’ typically means 80 total hours of seat time in a classroom.

**What is a credit hour?**

From the 2020-2021 UCA Undergraduate Bulletin: “A semester hour is defined as the credit earned for the successful completion of one hour per week in class for one semester, or a minimum of two hours per week of laboratory work for one semester. Each lecture hour suggests a minimum of two hours preparation on the part of the student.” This means that a university course worth 3 credit hours will require at least 45 hours of contact time (in classroom), plus around 90 hours of work outside the classroom. UCA’s TESOL minor requires seven such courses, for a total minimum commitment of 21 credit hours, or roughly 262.5 clock hours of contact time (excluding time outside the classroom).

**I still want to get a TESOL/TEFL/TESL certificate. Which company’s program do you recommend?**

Neither UCA nor the UCA Linguistics program is affiliated with any TESOL-related third-party company. We do not endorse or recommend any specific program.

**A job I’m applying for requires a ‘proof of certification’ letter. Can you write one for me?**

UCA’s TESOL minor does not lead to ‘certification’ per se. For students who have completed the TESOL minor, faculty are happy to write letters explaining the scope and content of the minor.