

PROPOSAL: Create the Elementary Education 3-6 and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) major

Background

The Undergraduate Studies Council of the Faculty Senate has approved the creation of the Elementary Education 3-6 and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) major offered by Department of Special Education and Literacy Studies in the College of Education and Human Development.

Educators with an English as a Second Language (ESL) endorsement are highly sought-after and are in demand in Michigan as there is a lack of educators with this qualification especially given the increasing population of multilingual learners (MLs) in Michigan. There is currently no institution in Southwest Michigan which offers students the option to earn an ESL endorsement as an undergraduate aside from WMU, and thus there is a lot of potential in this area for student recruitment. Finally, given the existing Accelerated Graduate Degree Program (AGDP) in TESOL, students in this major would be on an accelerated path towards a master's degree. A major would open up teaching opportunities globally, making this TESOL major even more desirable for some students.

Recommended Action

Create the Elementary Education 3-6 and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) major.