Graduate Studies and Research
Western Kentucky University
Office of the Dean
745-2446

REPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

DATE: February 2008
FROM: Graduate Studies & Research

The Graduate Council submits the following items for consideration. Items marked with an asterisks [*] are information items. All other items are consent items:

I. One time Only
        HIST 607 Early Modern Europe, 1300-1648*

II. Revise a program
        TESL Graduate Endorsement*

III. Create a New Certificate Program
        Graduate Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

Potter College of Arts and Letters
Department of English
Proposal to Create a New Certificate Program
(Action Item)

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1.   **Identification of program:**

    1.1   Program title: Graduate Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESL)
    1.2   Required hours in program: 15
    1.3   Special information: Courses in this program will be offered either on-line, in the evenings, or during the summer for the convenience of full-time professionals
    1.4   Catalog description:
            The TESL Graduate Certificate is intended for individuals who are not P-12 teachers but, rather, individuals who want to teach in language institutes, either domestically or abroad. The Certificate requires 15 hours consisting of English 407G Linguistic Analysis, 408G Socio-Psycho Linguistics, 565 Integrated TESL, 566 Teaching and Testing ESL Grammar, and 508 TESL Field Experience. Other requirements include a portfolio of student work and completion of 6 hours of one foreign language if not previously taken. Students may take the courses in any sequence except for ENG 508, which involves a field experience that students do in Bowling Green during their last semester. Students must have taken English 104 Introduction to Linguistics, 302 Language and Communication, 304 English Language, or an approved equivalent before being admitted. Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA in order to receive the certificate.

2.   **Objectives of the proposed certificate program:**
            This certificate is intended to qualify graduate students to teach English to non-native speakers outside of the public school system domestically or internationally. A graduate certificate in TESL will give such students the credentials private language institutes and foreign schools and universities prefer, thus making those who complete our program more marketable.

3.   **Rationale:**

    3.1   Reason for developing the proposed certificate program:
            Currently, after completing these same courses, Kentucky public school teachers earn a certificate to teach ESL in K-12. Non public school teachers earn no certification despite having completed the same program.

In many international markets, anyone who wants a respectable, well-paying ESL position must, at minimum, possess a graduate certificate in TESL. If not, they receive substandard salaries and little job security. Likewise, most community colleges and private language academies in the United States demand some sort of certification in TESL. In short, by giving students from a variety of graduate programs the opportunity to earn a certificate in TESL, we significantly open up their job opportunities.

3.2   Relationship of the proposed certificate program to other programs now offered by the department:
       This program is identical to the existing endorsement intended for current public school teachers in Kentucky except that this certificate is intended only for individuals teaching in non public schools.

3.3   Relationship of the proposed certificate program to certificate programs offered in other departments:
       The courses in this program are unique to the English Department. While the Modern Languages Department offers a series of pedagogy courses in the teaching of a foreign language, these are intended for undergraduate English speakers seeking certification to teach foreign language in public schools.

3.4   Projected enrollment in the proposed certificate program:
       15-20, based on current enrollment in TESL classes and expressed demand

3.5   Similar certificate programs offered elsewhere in Kentucky and in other states (including programs at benchmark institutions):
       The only similar program in the state of Kentucky is a 12-hour undergraduate program offered at Spalding University. In terms of benchmark schools, the following schools offer graduate certificates in TESL:
       1. Youngstown State University (Ohio), 12 hours
       2. Indiana State University, 12 hours
       3. Central Missouri State University, 21 hours
       4. California State University--Fresno, 12 hours

3.6   Relationship of the proposed certificate program to the university mission and objectives:
       This program is custom-made for the University's mission of engaging students for success in a global society. Specifically, it encourages them to learn more about the cultural, sociological, political, economic, and cognitive aspects of learning another language. Inevitably, during and after the program, certificate graduates will help their students overcome

cross-cultural differences and create international understanding--two main goals of second language instruction.

4. **Curriculum: Required courses: 15 hrs**
    English 407G Linguistic Analysis
    English 408G Sociolinguistics and Psycholinguistics
    English 565 Integrated TESL
    English 566 Teaching and Testing ESL Grammar
    English 508 TESL Field Experience
    Student Portfolio (for final assessment)
    Other Requirements:
    6 hours of one foreign language if not previously taken

    The program will be assessed by portfolios, which students will be required to assemble during the last semester of the program. They will consist of selected pieces of student work, such as essays, lesson plans, and classroom observations.

5. **Budget implications: None**   (All the program currently exist.)

6. **Proposed catalog term: 200830**

7. **Dates of prior committee approvals:**

    English Department/Division: __9-27-07_____

    PCAL Curriculum Committee   __10-11-07_____

    Graduate Council   __12-13-07_____

    University Senate   _____

Attachment: Program Inventory Form