

## Additional Information/FAQs

### *1. Do I have to start taking courses as soon as I'm admitted?*

Matriculated students must enroll in courses in the semester in which they were admitted. If a student chooses not to enroll, admission may be deferred for up to two semesters, not including summer.

### *2. How many courses may I take each semester?*

Matriculated students may take two courses in fall and spring semesters and three in the summer. Enrolling in three courses in the fall and Spring is considered full-time and requires written permission from the Dean of Graduate Studies.

### *3. How many courses can I take in the program as a non-matriculated student?*

Students may enroll in no more than two graduate courses before formal admission to the master's program.

### *4. How long will it take to complete the program?*

Averaging two courses per semester, most students complete the program in two calendar years. An additional semester is required for students seeking licensure who enroll in TESL 980 or TESL 981.

### *5. In what order should I take the classes?*

Of the seven Concentration Courses, any order is acceptable. The same is true for the EDUC courses, but we advise taking EDUC 999, Research and Evaluation *after* completion of at least three Concentration Courses.

### *6. How do I transfer credit?*

Transfer credit for prior graduate coursework completed at another regionally accredited college or university will be considered at the time of admission based on course descriptions and documentation submitted with the student's application. Transfer credit is limited to two (2) graduate courses and must

have been completed with a grade of B (3.00 on a 4.00 scale) or better provided they were earned no more than five (5) years prior to the date of admission. Exceptions may only be made by the admission committee.

Students who have earned a Master of Education (M.Ed.) from Framingham State University may apply the three common core Education courses to the M.Ed. in TESL.

Courses taken in the Graduate Certificate in TESL Program at Framingham State University may apply to M.Ed. TESL Program.

N.B. Professional Development courses, including those taken at Framingham State University, do not transfer to graduate programs. Credit will not be given for life experiences or undergraduate educational experiences.

#### *7. How do international students apply?*

Transcripts from universities outside the United States must be evaluated by a credit Evaluation Service such as World Education Services ([www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org)). Several other agencies are available.

#### *8. Do I need to maintain a certain GPA?*

Yes. The ACADEMIC STANDING AND DISMISSAL policy from the Graduate Catalog is as follows:

Academic Average for Graduate Degrees and Certificates Completion of a graduate degree program or graduate certificate at Framingham State University requires that all students achieve a minimum of 3.00 grade point average in graduate courses taken to satisfy program requirements. Only credits received from Framingham State University are included in this calculation. Students are expected to monitor their academic progress and will receive an academic warning if their grade point average falls below 3.00.

Academic Warning: The following circumstances result in an academic warning: 1. A student shall receive a warning the first time the cumulative grade point average falls below 3.00. 2. A student shall receive a warning when the student receives one (1) grade below "B- (2.7)." NOTE: A student shall be provided with no more than one (1) academic warning. A second

occurrence of either circumstance noted above will result in Academic Dismissal.

Academic Dismissal: The following circumstances result in an academic dismissal:

1. A student may be dismissed upon completion of a semester in which the cumulative quality point average falls below 3.00, and when a warning previously has been given. Students may not receive more than one warning before being dismissed.
2. A student shall be dismissed if the cumulative grade point average remains below 2.70 for two consecutive semesters.
3. A student shall be dismissed when the student accumulates two grades below "B- (2.7)."
4. A student shall be dismissed upon receipt of an "F" grade. The "F" grade is permanently recorded on the transcript and remains in the cumulative quality point average unless the student is reinstated and the course is retaken.
5. Upon notification of dismissal, students will have up to one semester from the date of notification to make a formal written appeal for readmission. The appeal will not be considered unless it includes concrete reasons and explanations for the student's poor academic performance, with specific reference to extenuating circumstances and documentation where possible. Students must also include a written plan of action for improving the level of academic performance. Appeals are addressed to the Graduate Education Council. Appeals for readmission will be reviewed based on new information or extremely extenuating circumstances only.
6. Should a student be re-admitted to the University (after submitting a written appeal to the Graduate Education Council) and receive an additional grade of "F" or meet the criteria for Dismissal as noted in items 1 through 3, that student will be permanently dismissed and ineligible for appeal.

*9. When should I take the Comprehensive Exam?*

Students should take the Comprehensive Exam the same semester as their last course. If the last course is being taken in spring semester, the exam should be taken on April 1. If the last course is being taken in fall semester, the exam should be taken on December 1. Applications to take the exam must be completed well in advance. See dates above in Comprehensive Exam.

*10. Can I take my Comprehensive Exam the semester after I complete my last course?*

With permission of the Program Coordinator or Program Advisor you may defer taking the Comprehensive Exam, though this is not recommended. Also, you may need to complete a Leave of Absence form if you are not taking classes the semester that you take the Comprehensive Exam, since the University is required to keep an accurate count of active students.

*9. Do I have to do the Practicum to graduate from the program?*

No. Completing the ten courses in the M. Ed TESL Program is required to earn the master's degree. This degree is often sufficient for those who wish to teach abroad, in adult ESL programs, or in some private school settings. The 300 Hour Practicum (TESL 980 or TESL 981) is for students who wish to be licensed to teach in Massachusetts public schools PreK-12.

*10. What's the difference between a practicum and an internship?*

In the TESL program, with regards to licensure, a Practicum is supervised by Framingham State University and requires enrollment in TESL 980 or TESL 981. An Internship may be an option for M.Ed. TESL students who are licensed teachers already and are simply seeking to add the ESL license. It is an agreement between the teacher and the district in which they are employed. Internships are not supervised in any way by Framingham State University and FSU does not endorse the candidate for licensure.

*11. Can I do my practicum before I finish all ten courses?*

No. Students are required to complete all ten courses before being approved to take TESL 980 or TESL 981.

*12. How long does the Practicum (TESL 980 or 981) take?*

The 300-hour Practicum takes a semester to complete. Students spend the whole day each day at school and follow the school district's hours and calendar. Students begin the fall Practicum the same day as the University begins fall classes. The Practicum typically concludes in mid to late December, when the student has accumulated the required 300 hours. Of the 300 hours, the student must have total control of the classroom for 150 hours.

For the Spring semester, students begin the Practicum the first day of classes at the University. The Practicum typically concludes in early May.

*13. Do I have to do my Practicum the semester after I complete the ten courses and pass my Comprehensive Exam, or can I wait a semester or two?*

Framingham State University does not have a specific deadline for when graduates of the M.Ed. in TESL must complete a Practicum. Students should keep in mind that license requirements are subject to change by the DESE, and if license requirements change between the time the student completes their course of study and when they return to do their practicum, students could be required to do additional coursework. It is advisable to wait no more than a semester or two.

- Please refer to the Graduate Catalog for a complete description of policies and procedures related to Graduate Studies.  
<https://www.framingham.edu/academics/catalogs/index>