

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the UCSB TESOL Minor and TESOL Certification

1. Will my TESOL minor courses help me get a job?

- a. Yes! Many reputable English teaching organizations can be highly competitive. If you are looking for an English teaching position as a [Fulbright English Teaching Assistant](#) (ETA) through the U.S. State Department, the [Japan Exchange and Teaching Program](#) (JET), the [North American Language and Culture Assistants program](#) (NALCAP) in Spain, or any other English teaching position locally or abroad, having your TESOL minor will increase your chances of being offered a position.
- b. You will also feel more confident to teach locally or to move abroad! The TESOL minor program also has a partnership with [Education First Language School](#) right here in Santa Barbara. Many of our TESOL minor graduates who complete the optional TESOL Practicum (Ling 148AA, offered in Spring) are hired part-time or full-time after graduating!
- c. Many graduates of our program have been hired to teach English language-specific courses with the [Teach for America](#) (TFA) program. They continued their education, earning a teaching credential or master's degree with financial support from TFA while working as an English Language Instructor at a K-12 school in America. There are many opportunities to use your TESOL minor courses in unique ways after graduating!

2. Is my TESOL Minor a certificate or teaching credential?

- a. No, the TESOL minor is not a K-12 teaching credential for you to be eligible to teach as a licensed educator in California or the greater U.S. You will need to apply to a teacher credentialing Master's program to teach at a K-12 public school or adult school. Your TESOL certificate will help you prepare to complete an English Learner Authorization such as a CLAD or Bilingual authorization or a Master's in TESOL.
- b. No, the TESOL minor program does not issue a printed TESOL certificate. However, you may use your TESOL minor courses in lieu of a TESOL certificate in many teaching positions because it is recognized by many English language schools and organizations as foundational and/or advanced coursework in TESOL.
- c. Your TESOL minor courses are accredited, upper-division collegiate-level courses. They will be recognized by most employers as such. With that said, you may need to highlight your TESOL minor in your application and interview with employers, or attach a letter about the courses in lieu of a TESOL minor certificate. Many employers (such as EPIK in South Korea) will take that letter instead of a TESOL certificate. Please contact your UCSB TESOL minor professors, who can help provide you with a formal letter outlining the TESOL Minor courses in lieu of a TESOL certificate to upload with your application materials. Before undergraduate TESOL minors existed, many countries abroad required a TESOL certificate because that was the only formal type of training that most teachers had. Many countries and employers abroad are now recognizing TESOL minor and TESOL B.A. degrees in their hiring processes, but not all of them have made that change.

3. Can I make a higher starting salary with my TESOL minor courses as an English language teacher abroad or a teacher in America?

- a. Yes! Many TESOL minor students start with a higher starting salary! Make sure to do your research and advocate for yourself to begin at a salary point that is in line with your training. For example, a student with a TESOL minor in the EPIK program in South Korea could start at salary point 2 (a higher point) because of their course experience. See the 2024-2025 EPIK salary point details [here](#):

Level 2: Requires a Bachelor's degree in Education/TESOL, a valid teaching license, or a Bachelor's degree plus a TEFL/TESOL certificate, with monthly pay ranging from 2.1M KRW to 2.35M KRW

Level 3: A Bachelor's degree in any field is the requirement, with the lowest pay often around 2.05M KRW to 2.1M KRW monthly, though the exact amount varies by location.

- b. If you go into K-12 or adult education as an English language instructor or educator within the United States, your course credits will advance you on the salary scale. K-12 school districts and community college/ university-level English language teaching positions offer a step-based pay system, with salaries increasing for each year of service and additional coursework or degrees. In short, your course units pay off!

4. Can I earn Public Student Loan Forgiveness as a full-time employee as a teacher, teacher aide, assistant, etc.?

- a. Yes! Take this student, for example. Maria was hired with her TESOL minor and Linguistics degree to work as a Youth Librarian full-time at her local library after graduating. Because she is a full-time employee, her position qualifies her for Public Student Loan forgiveness. That means all of her student loan payments are counted towards a qualifying number of payments. See studentaid.gov for updated information.

5. What else can I do with my TESOL minor after graduating?

- a. Teaching is one of the most common professions to enter with your TESOL minor after graduating. There are many opportunities for you to use your TESOL minor courses in unique ways after graduating! Many TESOL minor grads start or transition into other kinds of work such as:
- Speech language pathology (paraprofessional/assistant until earning licensure)
 - Librarian services
 - Linguistics research (higher education faculty positions)
 - Student counseling
 - International student support services
 - Educational administration
 - Writing and editing services
 - Business and leadership
 - The opportunities are endless! Your leadership and organizational skills as an English language educator are transferable into most professions! Former TESOL minor students have served as Teach For America instructors and have even gone on to become doctors!