

UNIVERSITY SENATE

**UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

Introduced by: Graduate Academic Council

Date: March 2007

**PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A DUAL-DEGREE GRADUATE PROGRAM
MA in Communication and MS in TESOL**

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

1. That the University Senate approves the attached Proposal as recommended by the Graduate Academic Council.
2. That this proposal be forwarded to the President for approval.

Proposal for Dual Degrees: MA in Communication and MS in TESOL

Introduction

The Department of Communication and the Department of Educational Theory and Practice propose a **Dual Master of Arts in Communication and Master of Science in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages Program** beginning the fall semester of 2007. This graduate program will be *open to everyone with an undergraduate degree, or graduate degree* who is interested in the field of interpersonal and intercultural communication and would also like to be trained to teach English as a Foreign Language overseas, or to international students in U.S. institutions.

Rationale

The Department of Communication offers an M.A. degree (33 credits) which provides broad exposure to the field of communication while at the same time allowing students to emphasize interpersonal/intercultural communication, political communication, or organizational communication.

The Educational Theory and Practice Department offers an M.S. in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) degree (36 credits) which is for students whose *primary career goal* is to teach English as a Foreign Language overseas, or to international students in U.S. institutions.

The goal of the dual program is to bring together two interwoven fields of expertise and give students the chance to be trained in both so as to better meet the requirements of the job market in the globalized world.

The dual masters program will also be appealing to students because they will be able to get two masters degrees (33+36 credits) in two related fields for less credits (57 credits) because of the common core (12 credits) that is accepted as a part of both programs.

Curriculum

The Dual Program requires 57 credits:

21 credits in Communication Studies

12 credits common core courses

24 credits in TEFL

Total: 57 credits

M.A. in COMMUNICATION

Students must take 9 credits of communication program core courses, 12 credits of common core courses, 6 cr. of advanced electives in Intercultural Interaction/Cultural Practices, and 6 cr. in an internship/ practicum or thesis. **Total of 33 credits required.**

- **Program Core Courses (9 credits)**
Communication Theory and Practice (COM 502)
Message Design and Social Influence (COM 503)
Communication Research Methods (COM 525)
- **Common Core Courses (12 credits)**
Interpersonal Interaction (COM 575)
Culture and Communication (COM 577)
Pragmatics (ETAP 636)
Plus 3 cr. as advised
- **Substantive Electives (6 credits)**
Advanced Electives in Interpersonal Interaction/Cultural Practices as advised
- **Capstone Project (Internship Practicum or Thesis, 6 credits)**

TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language)

Students must take 12 credits of language core courses, 12 credits of common core courses, 3 credits of technology, 3 credits of research and 6 credits of methodology courses. **Total of 36 credits required.**

- **Language Core (12 credits)**
English Grammar ALIN 552/ETAP 552
Second Language Learning ETAP 536
Bilingualism ETAP 652B
One linguistics course: ALIN 522, ALIN 523, LIN 501 or as advised
- **Common Core Courses (12 credits)**
Pragmatics (ETAP 636)
Interpersonal Interaction (Com 575)
Culture and Communication (Com 577)
Plus 3 cr. as advised
- **Technology (3 credits)**
ETAP 634 or ETAP 653 (semester varies)
- **Research (3 credits)**
ETAP 680/681 (not offered in summer) or Thesis ETAP 699
- **Methodology (6 credits)**
TESOL Methods ETAP 501
Practicum ETAP 598 (Clinic classes; two semesters for 3 credits)

Justification:

1) A dual degree program in Communication (specializing in Intercultural Interaction and Cultural Practices) and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) serves the interests of two constituencies. It serves the interests of students who want to teach English as a second or foreign language, and who want to enrich the foundation they have for teaching a foreign language by studying communication processes as well. The program also serves the interests of students in the field of interpersonal and intercultural communication who are interested in getting overseas experience, and while there they can support themselves by teaching English as a Foreign Language, and to international students in U.S. institutions. In the US job market both communication and TESOL degrees are in high demand. Someone with both will have more options.

2) The goal of the dual program is to bring together two interwoven fields of expertise and give students the chance to be trained in both so as to better meet the requirements of a globalized job market. The combination of the two programs achieves greater efficiency than pursuing each degree separately, reducing the total credits required from 69 to 57. This is achieved in part by the fact that the same 2 courses (for 6 credits) currently count in each degree program: Com 575 (Interpersonal Interaction) and Com 577 (Culture and Communication). It is also achieved by the fact that the same courses can count as electives in both programs (for a max. of 6 credits of supporting electives required in Com).

27 crs. in Communication; 24 credits in TESOL (incl. 6 crs. in Com); 6 crs. electives counted in both Com and TESOL

Total: 57 credits

Admission and Advisement:

This graduate program will be *open to everyone with an undergraduate degree, or graduate degree* who fulfills the acceptance requirements in both programs.

Applicants who apply to the dual program prior to matriculating will be reviewed by both departments. They must be accepted by both to be admitted to the dual program. If accepted by one department and not the other, the applicant has the option of matriculating in that department alone, not in the dual program.

Applicants who matriculate in one department and then opt to apply to the dual program will have to submit an application to the other department at that later time and be accepted in that department. Those students who enter the dual program at that later date will have their records reviewed to determine whether the courses they have taken so far, plus those remaining, will enable them to achieve the efficiency of reduced total credits.

Students will be advised in each of the departments. Advisors in each department will be expected to consult each other as needed about course selections special to the other field.

