Moment by moment, day by day and person by person, educators ignite minds and strengthen communities. Programs at Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College offer a blend of classroom instruction and professional experiences that prepare you to ask the right questions, navigate uncertainty and make a difference.

Program Description

The BAE program for elementary education with a concentration in bilingual education and English as a second language offers students a firm grounding in current research and best practices for English language learners, accompanied by real-world classroom experiences. Undergraduates majoring in bilingual education and English as a second language for elementary education (grades K-8) are prepared to nurture and develop languages other than English in dual-language settings and to value the rich linguistic resources that are present in any classroom to support student learning. Students in this program take several courses that focus on developing teachers for linguistically and culturally diverse settings. These courses include topics such as language diversity, dialectal variation in the classroom and funds of knowledge.

Understanding the challenges that emerging bilinguals face instructionally, coupled with understanding the implications of language policy in various learning contexts is imperative to student experiences and coursework. Students learn processes for identifying English language learners as well as developing and supporting the needs of students with individual language learning plans. Students also learn principles of first- and second-language acquisition, foundations of various program models, global awareness and diversity in families and communities in multicultural settings, as well as academic content areas including math, language arts, computer literacy and science with a specific focus on meeting the academic and linguistic needs of English language learners.

The program requires six credit hours of a foreign language or its equivalent and enables students to work with second-language learners.

The elementary education, BLE/ESL teacher certification program is clinically embedded during the junior and senior years. During this time, students are intentionally and directly implementing course learning and
theory to practices in the classroom. Strategies within the BLE/ESL program focuses on foundations of second language acquisition, biliteracy, culturally relevant pedagogy, effective language instruction and prepares pre-service teachers to develop critical perspectives that allows them to advocate for bilingual children and families.

Field experiences are diverse and involve meeting the needs of emerging bilinguals in structured English immersion, English language development and dual language settings. The primary goal of all professional experiences is to provide interns and residents with multiple opportunities to apply knowledge learned in coursework to practice in preK-12 classrooms. Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College students complete internships during the junior year that require one day per week in grades K-8 classrooms and full-time, year-long residencies in their senior year.

Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College faculty and highly qualified certified lead teachers from partner school districts and charter schools collaboratively coach interns and residents during required clinical experiences with high concentrations of English language learners. The professional experience provided by the program is unmatched in Arizona and provides students an opportunity to work directly with children and make an immediate impact on classroom achievement. This intensive, hands-on professional experience model of teacher preparation creates highly sought-after graduates.

Graduates are recommended for grades K-8 elementary teacher certification. Those desiring to teach in a public school must pass the appropriate Arizona educator exams (National Evaluation Series or Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessments) to be certified to teach in the state of Arizona. In addition, students must complete six credit hours of a foreign language or equivalent and pass an appropriate language proficiency test to be eligible for the BLE endorsement. All graduates who meet the foreign language requirement receive an ESL endorsement.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College
- **Location:** Tempe campus
- **Additional Program Fee:** No
- **Second Language Requirement:** No
- **First Required Math Course:** MAT 142 - College Mathematics
- **Math Intensity:** General

### Required Courses (Major Map)
Admission Requirements

General University Admission Requirements:

All students are required to meet general university admission requirements.

Freshman | Transfer | International | Readmission

Change of Major Requirements

A current ASU student has no additional requirements for changing majors.

Students should refer to https://changingmajors.asu.edu/request for information about how to change a major to this program.

Transfer Options

ASU is committed to helping students thrive by offering tools that allow personalization of the transfer path to ASU. Students may use the Transfer Map search to outline a list of recommended courses to take prior to transfer.

ASU has transfer partnerships in Arizona and across the country to create a simplified transfer experience for students. These pathway programs include exclusive benefits, tools and resources, and help students save time and money in their college journey. Students may learn more about these programs by visiting the admission site: https://admission.asu.edu/transfer/pathway-programs.

Global Opportunities

Global Experience

Future bilingual and ESL educators can fulfill their language credits and stay on track academically while living in another country through study abroad. Programs combine language acquisition with history, culture, art and literature. Students learn alongside peers from other countries and gain valuable career-readiness skills in critical thinking and problem-solving. https://mystudyabroad.asu.edu/
Career Opportunities

There is a great demand for teachers in Arizona with a bilingual education ESL endorsement. A high percentage of students from this program receive job offers during their residencies. Many graduates with a degree in elementary education and BLE or ESL endorsements work in:

- charter schools
- nontraditional settings
- private school settings
- public elementary schools

Contact Information

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