

TESL TRAINING TOPICS FOR PROGRAMS ACCREDITED BY TESL ONTARIO

This chart includes 117 TESL training topics. Of these topics, 76 are rated as “essential” and must be covered by a TESL Ontario accredited program. The remaining 41 topics are rated as “optional”.

TESL Ontario requires 250 hours of training in TESL theory and methodology. It also requires a 50 hour practicum. Of the 250 instructional hours, a minimum of 190 hours must be dedicated to essential topics. The remaining 60 hours can be allotted to optional topics or added to the hours assigned to essential topics. The 50-hour Practicum includes 30 hours of observation and 20 hours of supervised practice teaching.

SECTION 1: THEORY	
1.1) THEORETICAL ISSUES	
Second Language Acquisition/ Learning	Essential
First Language Acquisition/ Learning	Essential
Factors Affecting Language Learning	Essential
Principles of Adult Education	Essential
Factors Affecting Adult Learning	Essential
Models of Communicative Competence	Essential
Pragmatics	Essential
Intercultural Communication/Competence	Essential
Diversity (Socio-cultural/ Political/ Economic/ Racial/ Gender Issues)	Essential
Learning/ Teaching and Educational Technology	Essential
Schema Theory, Genre Theory	-----Optional
Discourse Analysis	-----Optional
English as a Global Language	-----Optional
1.2) LINGUISTICS	
Morphology	Essential
Syntax	Essential
Semantics	Essential
Phonetics	Essential
Phonology	Essential
1.3) LANGUAGE STRUCTURE AND SKILLS: CONCEPTS/ THEORY AND RESEARCH	
Grammar	Essential
Vocabulary	Essential
Pronunciation	Essential
Listening	Essential
Speaking	Essential
Reading	Essential
Writing	Essential

Section 2: METHODOLOGY	
2. 1) WORKING WITH CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS	
Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB)	Essential
Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR)	-----Optional
2.2) WORKING WITH CURRENT APPROACHES	
Communicative Approach	Essential
Task-based Instruction/ Approach	Essential
Language Skills- and Strategies-based Instruction/ Approach	Essential
Content-based Instruction/ Approach	-----Optional
Competency-based Instruction/ Approach	-----Optional
Bilingual Approach	-----Optional
2.3) UNDERSTANDING PREVIOUS AND EMERGENT APPROACHES/ METHODS	
Audio-lingual, Direct Method, Grammar Translation, Total Physical Response	Essential
Designer Methods (e.g. Suggestopedia, The Silent Way)	-----Optional
Post Methods (Dogme, Flipped Classroom)	-----Optional
2. 4) CONTENT AREAS	
Adult ESL	Essential
Language Instruction to Newcomers to Canada	Essential
ESL for International Students (in Canada)	Essential
Academic English/English for Academic Purposes	Essential
Literacy	Essential
English for the Workplace	-----Optional
Business English	-----Optional
Occupation Specific English	-----Optional
Standardized Test Preparation	-----Optional
ESL/EFL in global/International Situations	-----Optional
ESL for Children/Adolescents	-----Optional
2. 5) CONTEXT: (familiarity with) Models of Delivery	
Classroom Teaching	Essential
Classroom Teaching with Technology	Essential
Blended Teaching (in-class/online)	Essential
Distance: online	-----Optional
Distance: paper-based	-----Optional
One-to-One Teaching	-----Optional
2.6) ACCESSING RESOURCES	
Funded, Commercial, Instructor-developed	Essential
Print, Digital	Essential

Realia, Experiential, Guest Speakers	Essential
EdTech (Educational Technology) Tools and Apps	Essential
Virtual Realities	-----Optional
Teaching Internationally- unique resource needs	-----Optional
2.7) WORKING WITH RESOURCES	
Accessing, Adapting, Incorporating	Essential
Multi-media	Essential
EdTech (Educational Technology) Tools and Apps	Essential
2.8) PLANNING	
Needs Analysis	Essential
Course/Syllabus Planning	Essential
Lesson Planning	Essential
Designing Activities	Essential
2.9) TEACHING LANGUAGE: Components and Skills	
Grammar	Essential
Vocabulary	Essential
Pronunciation	Essential
Listening	Essential
Speaking	Essential
Reading	Essential
Writing	Essential
2.10) TEACHING LANGUAGE: Discourse/Textual Competencies	
Discourse (or Textual) Competencies	Essential
Pragmatics (or Function/Socio-cultural)	Essential
Strategic Competence	Essential
2.11) TEACHING SKILLS	
Teaching Techniques and Skills	Essential
Classroom Management Skills	Essential
Teaching Aids and Resources	Essential
Technology and Digital Learning	Essential
Language Learning Strategies	Essential
Individualization within Classes with Diverse Learner Types and Abilities	Essential
Interculture Attitudes and Skills	Essential
Interactive Skills and Presence	Essential
Managing in-class Error Correction and Feedback	Essential
Managing Multi-level Classes	Essential
Managing Continuous Intake Classes	Essential
Ongoing Action Research and Reflection	Essential
Supply Teaching Techniques	-----Optional
Adapting Techniques and Skills in EFL Situations	-----Optional
Managing Classes in EFL Situations	-----Optional

2.12) FEEDBACK AND ASSESSMENT	
Classroom-based Assessment	Essential
Assessments (e.g. journals, portfolios, conferencing, interviews, presentations)	Essential
Feedback and Error Correction	Essential
Placement Assessment/Testing	-----Optional
Exit Assessment/Testing	-----Optional
Portfolio Based Language Assessment (PBLA)	-----Optional
Standardized Language Testing	-----Optional

SECTION 3: PROFESSIONALISM	
These topics might be covered in a workshop or as an independent project.	
3.1) Knowing the ESL Context: Schools/ Agencies/ Institutions	
Boards of Education (Con Ed/Adult Ed)	-----Optional
Settlement/Community Centres	-----Optional
Colleges	-----Optional
Universities	-----Optional
Private Language Schools	-----Optional
Teaching Internationally	-----Optional
Online Tutoring Services	-----Optional
Tutoring Agencies	-----Optional
Corporate Training	-----Optional
Assessment Centres (CLBs, CLARS)	-----Optional
3.2) Knowing the Professional Field	
TESL/TESOL Organization (advocacy and professional development)	Essential
Journals and Publications	-----Optional
Job Market (local and global)	-----Optional
Networking in the Field	-----Optional
3.3) Knowing Professional Practice	
Self-reflective Practitioner	Essential
Ongoing Professional Development Opportunities	Essential
Tutela	-----Optional

Section 4: Practicum	
Observation in Adult ESL Contexts	Essential
Supervised Practice Teaching in Adult ESL Contexts	Essential

TESL TRAINING HOURS REQUIREMENTS

For

PROGRAMS ACCREDITED BY TESL ONTARIO

Essential Topics in Theory All essential topics listed under Theory must be covered.	A minimum of 70 hours
Essential Topics in Methodology and Professionalism All essential topics listed under Methodology and Professionalism must be covered.	A minimum of 120 hours
Optional Topics in Theory, Methodology, and Professionalism Some or all of the optional topics can be covered.	A maximum of 60 hours
Observation in Adult ESL Contexts	A minimum of 30 hours
Practice Teaching in Adult ESL Contexts	A minimum of 20 hours
Total Number of Training Hours Required by TESL Ontario	A minimum of 300 hours