

English as a Second Language

Query – 04.2007

Query: Would a degree program in ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) or TESOL (teachers of English for speakers of other languages) qualify as a “core subject” if it is offered through an IHE’s college of arts and sciences? Would it qualify as a “core subject” if it is offered through the IHE’s teacher prep program?	
From: Arizona	
Responses:	
Utah	My understanding is that ESL is not a core subject, no matter where it is housed. Language arts, math and science are core subjects. However, if the needs of Arizona’s K-12 students are best met by projects in ESOL, then Maryn ought to consider those proposals. I tend to see the spirit of the law. That is, we assist teachers to improve the academic performance of their students. This, to me, is the bottom line.
Minnesota	The legislation defines core academic subjects. Section 9101(11) indicates that these subjects are English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography. The October 5, 2006 nonregulatory guidance has this listing of core academic subjects on page A-2.
USDOE	The term "core academic subjects," according to NCLB, means English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography [Section 9101(11)]. ESOL and TESOL are, therefore, not core subjects. That said, if ESOL or TESOL teachers are providing primary instruction in a subject that is a core subject, then they must meet the highly qualified requirements for that subject and grade level. In addition, teachers of English language learners who teach in instructional programs funded under ESEA Title III must be fluent in English and any other language in which they provide instruction, including having written and oral communication skills. If AZ's SAHE proposal wants to provide PD to HQ teachers on teaching core subjects to particular populations of students (special education or ESL--for example, a PD program on learning mathematics so as to better teach the subject to special education students), then that'll be fine--as long as the focus in on the core subject. What they can't do is offer PD on the ESL or SpEd issues separated from core content (stuff like identifying students for special ed, the ins and outs of Title III ESL rules, etc.)