



Domestic Applicants

I. Description of Degree

The Master of Arts in English as a Second Language exists to train a group of language educators for professional credibility within the international profession of TESOL, teachers of English to speakers of other languages and dialects. Our mission is threefold: first, to continue education for those teachers and administrators who interact with second language learners within the public and private school sectors in the environment of the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas; second, to prepare new teachers, researchers, and administrators for working with second language learners, particularly of English, throughout the world under varying social, political, economic, and cultural conditions; and third, to legitimize the profession of English as a second language for the local, state, national, and international communities by basing applications to fieldwork, (whether in the ESL/EFL classroom, program administration, or research) on solid theoretical background both in theoretical and applied linguistics.

II. Program Requirements

1. Online Application: The application to UTPA's graduate programs can be completed online at www.utpa.edu/gradapply
2. Application Fee: The University application fee of \$50 as can be paid online by credit card or electronic check (in the online application), or in the form of money order or check and sent to the Office of Payments and Collections. In the case of money order or check, the applicant is responsible for submitting a copy of the receipt to the Graduate Studies office for documentation. All application fees are non-refundable.
3. Official Transcripts*: **Official college transcripts are to be sent to the Graduate Studies office directly from all the institutions attended.** If the applicant attended UTPA at any time, those official transcripts will be handled by the Graduate Studies office; however, the applicant is responsible for requesting official transcripts to be sent directly from all other institution(s).





*Transcripts must be sealed and sent directly from the institution to be considered official. Transcripts will be considered unofficial if they are hand delivered by the applicant or third party regardless if sealed by the institution. Failure to submit a complete/correct application and official transcripts from all institutions attended will result in one of the following: rejection of application, withdrawal of admission offer or disciplinary action including expulsion if the student is enrolled. All submitted documents become the property of UTPA and will not be returned. Admission documents will remain on file for one year if the applicant does not attend the University. Documents will be retained for seven years for students enrolled in a master's level program and for ten years for students enrolled in a doctoral program. Please review the [Student File Retention Schedule](#) for more details.

4. Personal Statement (letter) detailing reasons for pursuing the graduate degree and professional goals (submitted online).
5. Bachelor's degree with a GPA of at least 3.0

III. Deadlines

| | Fall | Spring | Summer I (includes mini- semester) | Summer II |
|--|---------|--------|---|-----------|
| <i>Deadlines for Priority Registration Application</i> | March 1 | Oct. 1 | Oct. 1 | Oct. 1 |
| <i>Deadlines*</i> | Aug. 1 | Dec. 1 | May 1 | June 1 |

* Applicants must submit all application documents and meet all other requirements by the published deadline date for the semester to which they are applying in order to be considered for admission. Note: Priority deadlines have been established that allow ample time for the application review to be completed before the first day of registration.

IV. Offers of Admission to the Graduate School

Official admission offers will be made only by the Office of Graduate Studies and are valid only for the semester requested on the application. Through the [Online Application Web site](#), you will be able to view the status of your application. Students who are accepted but do not attend the semester requested on the application must submit an application for readmission to enroll for a later semester. An additional application fee will be charged if the student reapplies more than one year from the semester originally requested. [Re-Apply](#)





V. Program Contact Information

Program Website: http://www.utpa.edu/dept/english/grad_maesl.html

Program Advisor: Dr. Edward E. Heckler

Email: heckler@utpa.edu

Phone: (956) 381-3426

VI. Application Checklist

1. Online application
2. Application fee
3. Original transcripts
4. Statement of Purpose
5. Bachelor's degree with a GPA of at least 3.0

