The final comprehensive examination constitutes a synthesis and application of the knowledge, skills, and dispositions acquired during the course of study leading to the master’s degree in TESOL. The exam will cover content from the following areas: foundations of second language acquisition, instructional and assessment practices related to ELLs, educational and TESOL research, theories of language development, and linguistic and cultural diversity.

You will be tested on the knowledge gained from the following courses:

- EDRE 569 Phonics and the Foundation of Literacy
- EDEL 650 Foundations of TESOL
- EDEL 651 Instructional Strategies for English Language Learners (ELLs)
- EDEL 652 Culturally Responsive Teaching
- EDEL 653 Effective Assessment Practices for ELLs
- EDEL 654 Aspects of Language and Sociolinguistics

**Reviewing for the Exam**

**Study Strategies:**

Graduate candidates are expected to use appropriate authorities and relevant theories when responding to the examination; therefore, candidates should review pertinent coursework and research in the area of TESOL. Appropriate study strategies would include the following:

1. Review the table of contents of texts used in your graduate work. Look at chapter titles and major headings, which should bring to mind information, concepts, and understandings. If you do not remember general understandings, reread the section. Review class notes from your graduate courses. Think about the TESOL course information and how it translates into best practice in today’s classrooms.

2. Be familiar with major scholars and programs in ELL and cultural diversity education/research and the histories of ESL teaching. What do these authorities espouse? Be able to cite scholars as you respond to the examination.
3. Be acquainted with research-based strategies in TESOL. Know some significant works (books, articles, studies, etc.) in TESOL education and research.

4. Be able to explain major ideas that are shaping current thinking and practice in TESOL.

Possible Topics:

All of the questions on the examination will ask you to think beyond the literal level of understanding and address theoretical as well as practical application based on current research in TESOL. Your coursework in the M.Ed. program has addressed the K-12 curriculum; be able to apply your knowledge of TESOL across the curriculum. The following are suggested topics to consider while preparing for the exam. These are not representative questions for the exam, but rather content that you should be familiar with as you approach the exam.

Here are some topics to consider:

- Understand and be able to discuss current and historical perspectives regarding TESOL.
- What are the current theories of TESOL? Be able to identify major contributors to those theories.
- What concept of TESOL has made an impact on your teaching of ELLs?
- Discuss the importance of TESOL as it relates to your specific grade level and discipline(s). Develop your response with inclusion of specific strategies pertinent to the curriculum.
- Understand how Cultural aspects, Oral language, Fluency, Phonics, Vocabulary, Writing, and Comprehension are important in teaching ELLs, as well as diagnosis and assessment.
- Understand current and historical theories and research in language acquisition as applied to ELLs.
- Be able to discuss and identify specific strategies for working with English language learners.
- Be able to explain how culture impacts learning and achievement.
- Describe the process of using different avenues of assessment and how the assessments can bridge the gap regarding cultural bias in assessment. Be able to discuss different assessments.