



Xavier University
Study Guide for Graduate Comprehensive Examination in TESOL

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 ELs, 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 Learners (ELs)
EDEL 652 Culturally Responsive Teaching
EDEL 653 Effective Assessment Practices for ELs
EDEL 654 Aspects of Language and Sociolinguistics

Reviewing for the Exam: 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. The questions on the examination will ask you to think beyond the literal level of understanding and address theoretical as well as practical application of research in TESOL. Appropriate study strategies would include the following:

- Review course texts. Examine chapter titles and major headings to recall information, concepts, and research. Review class notes and resources from instructors. Consider the TESOL course information and how it translates into best practice in today's classrooms.

Exam Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify the theories and major contributors of current and historical perspectives in TESOL.
- Discuss the historical timeline of sociolinguistics and studies in second language acquisition.
- Identify and elaborate on specific strategies for working with ELs.
- Explain and apply various research-based strategies in TESOL.
- Select and explain methods in teaching academic content and language, citing scholars and programs, as well as their impact on K-12 education.
- Discuss the importance of TESOL, developing your response with inclusion of specific strategies pertinent to the K-12 curriculum.
- Cite and explain current thinking in assessment measures and tools that comprise best practices in TESOL.
- Describe the process of using different avenues of assessment and how the assessments can bridge the gap regarding cultural bias in assessment.
- Demonstrate how cultural aspects, oral language, fluency, phonics, vocabulary, writing, and comprehension are important in teaching ELs, as well as diagnosis and assessment.
- Cite scholars and research in cultural diversity and culturally responsive teaching practices.
- Explain how culture impacts learning and achievement.