



Monday, December 15, 2003

English as a Second Language application deadline extended

Oakland University will offer its new English as a Second Language (ESL) endorsement program for certified teachers with the first cohort beginning in the winter 2004 semester. The extended deadline to apply is Monday, Dec. 8.

The 20-credit cohort program is approved by the Michigan Department of Education and sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Education and Human Services. The program is beneficial not only to educators with students for whom English is a second language, but also to professionals working in international corporations and organizations, in cultural exchange agencies, and in curriculum development programs.

All courses in the ESL Endorsement Program may be applied toward OU's Master of Arts in Linguistics. According to the 2000 Census, 18.4 percent of school-age children in the United States, nearly one out of every five, speak a language other than English at home.

Locally, statistics obtained from Oakland Schools indicate that more than 100 languages are spoken by residents in Oakland County. It is not unusual to have at least a dozen different languages spoken in a single K-12 classroom in the tri-county area. OU's ESL Endorsement Program prepares educators to understand and address linguistic and cultural challenges that students experience when English is not their native language.

Visit the Department of Linguistics Web site at <http://www.lin.oakland.edu/endorsement.html> or call Janette Zupnik at (248) 370-2176 or e-mail zupnik@oakland.edu for additional information.

SUMMARY

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