Schools need Bilingual/ESOL and ESOL teachers.

The Bilingual Teacher Program at Western Oregon University meets that need.

There is an intense need for teachers who are bilingual in Spanish/English and have ESOL preparation because a large segment of the student population comes from homes where Spanish is the primary language. To address this need, the Bilingual Teacher Program began in 2007, and it continues with the support from the College of Education and our current dean, Dr. Mark Girod.

The Bilingual Teacher Program is an effort to recruit, prepare, and recognize teachers who speak both Spanish and English. In addition to licensure and endorsement requirements, teachers in the Bilingual Teacher Program must demonstrate proficiency in Spanish. You can either complete a minimum of six credits of upper division foreign language coursework (SPA 302 or higher) or pass the Spanish specialization exams (e.g., NES Spanish test).

ESOL: You don’t need to speak another language to get the ESOL Endorsement.

But if you do, Oregon school districts are especially eager to hire teachers who are licensed to teach in two languages. Bilingual teachers learn how to use students’ primary language as a bridge to academic success in English.

The program leads to an add-on endorsement to an Oregon teaching license and, increasingly, school districts are showing a preference in hiring for teacher candidates who have this knowledge and preparation.

Bilingual teachers also foster parental involvement and increased communication with families, features that are vital to the psychosocial well-being and academic success of language learners.

wou.edu/bilingualteacher • wou.edu/esol • wou.edu/educationtests
Students who participate in the Bilingual Teacher Program are known as “Bilingual Fellows.” The following are some benefits of the bilingual fellowship:

**Financial test assistance**
- Reimbursement for up to $400 for licensure tests (e.g., NES EAS, NES Sub-Tests 1 and 2, or NES ESOL test).
- See wou.edu/educationtests for more information about tests

**Academic, professional, and linguistic advising**
- Meet periodically with a caring faculty member
- Learn about local opportunities, upcoming events, and jobs for bilingual teachers
- Take part in “Pláticas” sessions to practice the language
- Loan a set of books for yourself or for your classrooms
- Loan a Kindle™ containing books or apps in Spanish

**Networking and recognition**
- Be acknowledged and meet your colleagues at the Annual Bilingual Fellows event
- Wear a colorful stole at graduation that announces you are a bilingual teacher!

**ESOL Study Abroad options**
- Receive assistance to study an ESOL course and the Spanish language
- Participate in a three-day orientation before the summer ESOL program

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**Study abroad in Latin America**
Western Oregon University offers two summer ESOL classes in a Spanish-speaking country. Students stay with a host family and are immersed in a foreign cultural experience. Participants take Spanish language classes as they fulfill academic requirements for the ESOL/Bilingual Endorsement program. To date, the program has been offered in Queretaro, Mexico; Rosario, Argentina; and Morelia, Mexico.

Bilingual Fellows who spend their summer in Latin America are eligible for a pre-trip orientation. Students travel with a faculty advisor to become acclimated before the official program begins. The Bilingual Teacher Program offsets the costs of the flight and the orientation.

For more information, see: wou.edu/bilingualteacher

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**Si habla español, comunicarse con:**
Dra. Carmen Cáceda
Coordinadora del Programa para Maestros Bilingües
503-838-8409
O, enviar un correo a bilingualteachers@wou.edu

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**Please contact us!**
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