TEACHER APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

Bilingual and ESL Approval
Approval as a bilingual or ESL teacher may be obtained by making an application through the office of a Regional Superintendent of Schools on ISBE Form 73-49 (Request for Approval as a Bilingual or ESL Teacher). ([http://www.isbe.net/certification/pdf/73-49_bilingual_teacher.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/certification/pdf/73-49_bilingual_teacher.pdf))

A statement of approval will be issued to individuals meeting the following requirements:
A. Possess a valid teacher certificate from Illinois (Type 03, 04, 09, or 10). NOTE: If your Type 10 is in Special Education, the only courses you may take through NIU for the Bilingual or ESL Special Education Approval are Foundations (EPFE 505) and TESL methods (LTIC 520). ([http://www.isbe.net/certification/html/special_education.htm](http://www.isbe.net/certification/html/special_education.htm))

B. Complete 18 semester hours of graduate credit distributed among five areas. At NIU, these five areas include five core courses and one elective. Choice of courses is dependent on the approval you are seeking; the approval options are outlined below.

C. Possess 100 clock hours of bilingual or ESL clinical experience or three months teaching experience in bilingual or ESL programs. At NIU this can be accomplished by completing a 3-credit internship (LTCY 586). Current teachers who are working with ELLs can document this experience by letter from your building principal.

D. Pass a language proficiency examination in the non-English language to be taught (applies to bilingual approval only).

Individuals who obtain an ESL approval may only teach in this capacity at the grade level for which their regular certificate is valid. Individuals who qualify for bilingual approval, however, may teach ESL in grades K-6, as well as all other subject areas of a bilingual education program in the language in which they are approved.

Courses offered at NIU for ESL Approval (18 graduate credit hours)
1. Foundations of Language Minority Education (EPFE 505)
2. Multicultural Education: Methods and Materials (LTIC 501)
3. Methods and Materials for TESOL in Content Areas (LTIC 520)
4. Applied Linguistics for Teachers (LTIC 545)
5. Assessment of Language Minority Students (LTIC 547)
6. One elective course

Courses offered at NIU for Bilingual Approval (18 graduate credit hours)
1. Foundations of Language Minority Education (EPFE 505)
2. Multicultural Education: Methods and Materials (LTIC 501)
3. Methods and Materials for TESOL in Content Areas (LTIC 520)
4. Teaching Language Minority Students in Bilingual Programs: Methods and Materials (LTIC 535)
5. Assessment of Language Minority Students (LTIC 547)
6. One elective course
Courses offered at NIU to obtain both ESL and Bilingual Approvals

1. Foundations of Language Minority Education (EPFE 505)
2. Multicultural Education: Methods and Materials (LTIC 501)
3. Methods and Materials for TESOL in Content Areas (LTIC 520)
4. Teaching Language Minority Students in Bilingual Programs: Methods and Materials (LTIC 535)
5. Applied Linguistics for Teachers (LTIC 545)
6. Assessment of Language Minority Students (LTIC 547)

Elective Courses offered at NIU
- Bilingualism and Reading (LTIC 515)
- Cross-cultural Issues in the Adult ESL Classroom (LTIC 553)
- Children’s Literature in a Multicultural Society (LTLA 539)
- Comparative Reading (LTRE 713)
- Comparative/International Education (EPFE 530)

Language Proficiency Test Information
If you are applying for the bilingual approval, you must also pass the language proficiency exam in the non-English language to be taught. Refer to the Illinois Certification Testing System Registration Bulletin (http://www.icts.nesinc.com/) for test dates. Applicants may obtain test registration bulletins from NIU, from their Regional Office of Education, or may register online for the tests.

Approval or Endorsement
There is no difference in the validity of an approval versus an endorsement. They are both equally valid. An approval comes in a separate letter from the Illinois State Board of Education and is valid for the same grade levels for which your teaching certificate is issued. For the endorsement, your teaching certificate will be reprinted to include the endorsement, allowing you the advantage of having all information appear in one document.

Please be aware that, if you teach in a middle school (grades 6-8) and choose to apply for the endorsement, there is a $30.00 fee, and you are required by ISBE to have two additional middle grade education courses. At NIU these courses include EPS 419 (The Middle School Child) and TLCI 422 (Middle School Organization and Instruction). There is no fee for the approval, and no additional courses are required if you are teaching in the middle grades.

If you have any questions regarding certification, please contact Division of Professional Certification, 100 North First Street, Springfield, Illinois 62777, email jreddy@isbe.net, or refer to the ISBE website at www.isbe.net. If you have any questions regarding ESL and/or bilingual approval courses at NIU, including scheduling, e-mail ltcy@niu.edu.