

Proyecto Maestría

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the program designed for certified bilingual teachers with five years experience?

We require five years experience for two reasons. First, because we are preparing our graduates to serve in roles as leaders in their schools and districts, they need to have a certain credibility with experienced and veteran teachers. Second, because our master's degree program itself does not focus upon issues of pedagogy as much as upon issues of theory and leadership, it is important that candidates enter with a wide range of experiences and background.

We understand that there are many qualified candidates who have fewer than five years experience teaching, and we regret that we do not have unlimited funds to be able to include them. We encourage people wishing to seek their master's degrees before they have completed five years of teaching to apply to the program on their own, and pursue alternative means of funding their education. Each year we have a number of master's students who are not a part of the cohort, and they are also very successful in the program.

What if I don't have five years experience as a certified bilingual teacher, can I still apply to the Proyecto Maestría Program?

Unfortunately, you cannot apply to the Proyecto Maestría Program if you do not have five years experience teaching as certified bilingual teacher in a classroom by May 2010. You can still apply to the UT Grad School on your own through the Curriculum and Instruction Department. If you do apply, you will have to pay full tuition and cover anything else that is required on your own.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.edb.utexas.edu/education/departments/ci/>

If I am not a certified Bilingual or ESL teacher, what can I do to earn those credentials?

You can apply to our Bilingual or ESL Summer Institute that we offer every summer. The Bilingual/ESL Summer Institute opened its doors in 2009 with the collaboration of the [Austin Independent School District](#). Ideal candidates are certified teachers working in the Austin metroplex and wish to pursue their Bilingual Education or E.S.L. credential. This institute will focus entirely on recruitment of certified teachers interested in attaining their ESL or bilingual education credentials. Coursework will support teachers' learning to effectively serve English Learners in their classrooms.

Benefits for Participating Teachers:

- Tuition/fees paid
- 4 graduate level courses
- Up to 6 units towards a MA degree (teachers will apply separately to Master's program)
- Being able to better teach ELL students

What are the Qualifications to apply to the Proyecto Maestría program?

- Five years experience teaching as certified bilingual teacher in a classroom by May 2010; currently in a bilingual position in the Austin metroplex.
- Evidence of professional development in the four core content areas: Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies.
- High level of Spanish and English language proficiency evidenced in the four domains: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing.
- Evidence of rigorous instruction and a successful classroom-learning environment.
- Meet and complete the application file requirements (For more information please refer to *Proyecto Maestría Application Steps*)

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What is the Selection Process for the Proyecto Maestría program?

- A UT/AISD Admissions committee will screen the applications to ensure that they meet the criteria listed above and choose finalists for observation.
- Finalists will be observed in their classrooms and materials added to candidates' files.
- The Department of Curriculum and Instruction at UT Austin will make the final selection of up to 12 candidates and 4 alternates.

How long is the Proyecto Maestría program?

Students begin in June and finish the following August after four summer sessions and two long semesters.

What are the days and times of the class meetings for the duration of the Proyecto Maestría program?

(Summer Schedule) Summer classes begin soon after your employment ends for the summer. In the summer they are every day for up to three hours during the day, and meet between 8:30am-4:30pm, for six weeks. PM students take two sessions each summer.

(Fall & Spring Schedule) During the two long semesters, classes generally meet 4-7 or 7-10 once a week. PM students take two courses each long semester.

What am I responsible for paying (i.e. tuition, registration, materials, books, permits, etc) through the Proyecto Maestría program at UT?

A Federal No Child Left Behind Title III Professional Development Grant will offset a substantial part of the costs of the program. Teachers will need to make a personal contribution to fulfill remaining costs. All costs associated with the GRE, application fees, books & materials, parking, and a small percentage of the tuition (this last bit depends upon tuition rates and grant amount the year you participate) are the interested applicants' responsibility. The grant will offer each candidate \$11,200 for the entire program. While we cannot predict what tuition/fees will be in the coming academic year, we can tell you that the current 2009-2010 cohort tuition and fees for the entire program cost \$12,382. Candidates will be responsible for the remaining tuition each semester -- which could amount to several hundred dollars per semester -- along with the cost of textbooks and transportation/parking, and the original application fee.

What are my commitments to the Proyecto Maestría program?

Teachers selected for the program are expected to maintain employment with their district for three (3) years after completing the Master's Degree Program. During these three years, they will be eligible for support through the National Professional Development grant for up to 3 substitute days per year in order that they may mentor colleagues at their school or nearby schools (contingent upon approval of their principal).

Participants will be required to sign an agreement to this effect before beginning coursework in June; if at any time they are found to be in breach of the agreement, they will be liable to reimburse the scholarship monies received for graduate study.

How much longer do you anticipate having the Proyecto Maestría program available with funding?

We will have five cohorts in total; the second cohort 2009-2010 just began, so the final cohort will begin in June 2012. Each cohort will have up to 12 participants.