

E-Teacher Scholarship Program 2012-13

Assessment: Summative and Formative Practices in Language Learning and Teaching

OFFERED BY UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, LINGUISTICS DEPT./AMERICAN ENGLISH INSTITUTE

The Office of English Language Programs of the U.S. State Department is offering this 10-week online teacher training for eligible candidates. The course will introduce the most recent English language teaching methods and techniques, offer the opportunity to engage in an innovative distance-learning program that employs the latest in modern technology, and provide direct access to U.S. experts with whom participants might not normally have the opportunity to interact.

Course Description

This course will involve participants with the theory and practice of the major components of assessment, with a particular focus on English as a Foreign Language (EFL) and addressing all four skill areas. Assessment topics covered include needs assessment, diagnostics, proficiency, achievement, formative, alternative, summative, standardized, strength-based, and differentiated modalities. Participants will also explore aligning assessment to behavioral objectives and course goals, giving learners effective and helpful feedback, developing rubrics and tests, evaluating assessment with item analysis, and looking at reliability and validity.

Articles and other readings give participants a firm foundation in assessment theory, and they will put theory into practice with an array of weekly practical applications, assignments, discussions, and tasks that include creating different types of assessments and feedback. The course will end with an individual assessment project appropriate to the local teaching context.

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Differentiate among the major types of assessment.
- Create samples of the different types of assessment for use in their classrooms, including alternative assessment.
- Analyze language assessment of the four skill areas.
- Develop a major assessment task appropriate for their own local teaching contexts.

Requirements

Candidates should be highly motivated in-service EFL educators or teacher trainers who are both dedicated to their own professional development and willing to share their knowledge with colleagues. In addition, they should:

- Have high intermediate to advanced level English language proficiency in all skill areas (approximately 525 TOEFL), particularly reading and writing.
- Have access 4-5 times per week minimum to reliable computers with high-speed Internet.
- Have basic technology skills for email, the Web (e.g., searches, downloads, uploads, managing of course logins/passwords) and file management (e.g., PDF, MS Word/Excel).