

APLNG Department *MA TESL Roadmap to Success*

Welcome to Penn State's Department of Applied Linguistics! This *MA TESL Roadmap to Success* is designed to help you think about and plan your MA TESL experience at Penn State.

FALL Semester (Year 1)

Academic

- **Advising:**
 - You will be assigned an advisor the semester you enroll. Please plan to meet with your advisor at least two times during the fall semester.
 - During the first year of study, you should begin to think about your MA TESL capstone projects: the MA Paper and e-Portfolio.

- **Coursework:**
 - Before classes begin, confirm your Fall course selections with your advisor. Also select and register for Spring semester courses in mid-September. Please use the *MA TESL Program Requirement Checklist* as a guide.
 - If you have credits from another institution that are eligible for transfer, complete the forms credit transfer forms. Forms can be obtained from the Graduate School.

- **Degree requirements:**
 - In conjunction with your advisor, create a timeline for your program. Be sure to include possible course selections for each semester as well as when to begin and complete your e-Portfolio and MA Paper.

Professional

The fall semester is a great time to explore the many opportunities for professional development through our department and across the University. The APLNG website has information about upcoming events, and you will also receive email announcements through the departmental listserv.

Here is a sampling of activities:

- **Departmental Events:** Round Table presentations, lectures with invited speakers, professional development workshops, end-of-year Open House
- **Departmental Committees:** Graduate students serve on departmental committees along with faculty members. You might volunteer to serve on committees to help with socials, Round Tables, the Center for Language Acquisition (CLA) speaker series, the APLNG newsletter, grad student travel, etc.
- **Special Interest Groups:** You can join faculty-run reading/study groups (i.e., SCT Reading Group, CRELLT CA Data Research Group, Migration Studies Project, Multilingual Writing Research Group)
- **Other University events:** You might also be interested in events sponsored by the University or other departments. Information can be found on department websites and the University on-line calendar. Also watch for announcements in the *Daily Collegian*, Penn State's student-run newspaper.

SPRING Semester (Year 1)

Academic

- **Advising:**
 - Plan to meet with your advisor at least two times during the semester.
 - Continue thinking about possible topics for your MA paper and select materials for your e-Portfolio.

- **Coursework:**
 - In consultation with your advisor, choose and register for Summer (if applicable) and Fall courses. Please use the *MA TESL Program Requirement Checklist* as a guide.

- **Degree requirements:**
 - Review and update your program timeline.

- **e-Portfolio and MA Paper:**
 - Attend an e-Portfolio workshop and begin to create your e-Portfolio.
 - Discuss possible MA Paper topics with your advisor.

- **FERPA:** “The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) is a federal law that governs how we protect and disclose student educational records.” Penn State requires anyone working in a classroom setting to complete the FERPA tutorial and quiz which can be found via this link:
http://www.registrar.psu.edu/staff/ferpa_tutorial/ferpa_tutorial.cfm

- **CITI Training** – “The Pennsylvania State University requires initial and continuing (every 3 years) education in the protection of human research participants for individuals involved in the conduct or oversight of human participant research. The training is offered through CITI (Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative).” If you plan to conduct human participant research for your MA Paper, you are required to complete the CITI Training: <http://www.research.psu.edu/training/irb-basic-training>

- **Teaching with Technology Certificate:** This certificate is optional but strongly recommended for people interested in using technology in the classroom. <http://ets.tlt.psu.edu/twt/>

Professional

Continue to explore professional development opportunities and get involved in those of interest to you. Here again is a sampling of activities with two new ideas listed at the end:

- **Departmental Events:** Round Table presentations, lectures with invited speakers, professional development workshops, end-of-year Open House

- **Departmental Committees:** Socials, Round Tables, Center for Language Acquisition (CLA) speakers series, APLNG newsletter, grad student travel
- **Special Interest Groups:** Faculty-run reading/study groups (i.e., SCT Reading Group, CRELLT CA Data Research Group, Migration Studies Project, Multilingual Writing Research Group)
- **Other University events:** Events sponsored by the University or other departments.
- **Conferences and Professional Memberships:** You may want to join AAAL, TESOL, or another professional organization and consider attending conferences in your areas of interest. Conferences that may be of interest to you include AAAL, TESOL, SLRF, PennTESOL East, Three Rivers TESOL, SCT Working Group, AERA and LANSI.
- **Volunteering:** Consider volunteering with university and community language teaching organizations.

FALL Semester (Year 2)

Academic

- **Advising:**
 - Plan to meet with your advisor and committee member at least two times throughout the semester.

- **Coursework:**
 - In consultation with your advisor, choose and register for Spring courses. Please use the *MATESL Program Requirement Checklist* as a guide.

- **Degree requirements:**
 - With your advisor, review and update your program timeline to be sure you are on track for graduation.
 - If you plan to graduate in December, complete the intent to graduate form which can be found on-line.

- **e-Portfolio and MA Paper:**
 - Continue to develop your e-Portfolio.
 - Continue to work on your MA Paper.

NOTE: As an MA TESL student, you are required to present your e-Portfolio and MA Paper at our APLNG Department's *Spring Open House* in May. So please plan accordingly!

Professional

- As always, continue to explore professional development opportunities and get involved in those of interest to you. Please see either the Fall or Spring Semester (Year 1) for the list of possibilities.
- This is also the time to begin to think about and plan your next steps. More education? Seek a job here or overseas?

SPRING Semester (Year 2)

Academic

- **Advising:**
 - Plan to meet with your advisor and committee member at least twice this semester.

- **Degree requirements:**
 - Review your degree requirements with your advisor to be sure you are on track for graduation.
 - If you plan to graduate in May, complete the intent to graduate form which can be found on-line.

- **e-Portfolio and MA Paper:**
 - Compile the final draft of your e-Portfolio and prepare to present it at the APLNG Department's *Spring Open House* in May.
 - Submit final draft of your MA Paper to your committee; prepare Signature Page and collect signatures; prepare poster on your MA Paper topic for the APLNG Department's Spring Open House in May.

Professional

- Continue to explore professional development opportunities and get involved in those of interest to you.
- Continue to move forward with your professional development plan!