

Adult Basic Education (ABE)

Licensure in Minnesota FAQs

1. What are the requirements to teach in an ABE program in Minnesota?

- Per Minnesota State Statute 122A.26, one must hold a valid Minnesota teaching license in order to teach in a Minnesota ABE program delivered by a school district/community education. Licensure is not necessarily required to teach English as a Second Language (ESL). An ABE program may also hire a person to teach ESL if they have a bachelor's or master's degree in English as a second language, applied linguistics, bilingual education, or a related degree as approved by the Minnesota Department of Education.
- Other entities that deliver ABE programming (e.g. community based organizations) are not subject to the requirements of 122A.26. All ABE providers may establish criteria in addition to these state statute requirements. For example, a provider may require ABE teachers to hold a valid ABE license.

2. I have a K-12 teaching license. Is that enough?

- In many cases, yes. However, ABE providers may establish specific hiring criteria in addition to basic state statute requirements.

3. I have a Master's degree in ESL/related field. Is that enough?

- Per Minnesota State Statute 122A.26, an ABE program delivered by a school district/community organization may hire an unlicensed person to teach ESL if they have a bachelor's or master's degree in English as a second language, applied linguistics, bilingual education, or a related degree as approved by the Minnesota Department of Education. ABE providers may also establish criteria in addition to these state statute requirements. For example, some school district ABE providers require licensure for all teachers, including ESL teachers.
- Other entities that deliver ABE programming (e.g. community based organizations) are not subject to the requirements of state statute 122A.26.

4. **I have an Adult ESL Certificate or an ABE Certificate from Hamline. Is that the same as a teaching license?**
 - No, these certificates are not an official state-issued teaching license. While they offer practical preparation toward working in an ABE program, they are not a license. The graduate credits earned in these certificate programs may, however, be used toward future licensure requirements if an institution offers the ABE license in the future and fewer than 7 years have passed.
5. **I have a TEFL Certificate from Hamline. Is a TEFL certificate sufficient to teach ESL in Minnesota?**
 - A number of community-based organizations that offer adult ESL classes have hired TEFL certificate graduates for part-time positions, and in some instances, full-time positions. TEFL credits can apply to an MATESOL. Per state statute, there are some ABE sites that hire ESL teachers with an MATESOL/ESL or related field so TEFL can be a good place to start.
6. **If I have a TEFL Certificate, what else do I need to take to get the ABE license?**
 - The initial license in ABE is 30 graduate credits.
 - Some TEFL credits may possibly apply to the ABE license.
7. **Where can I complete an ABE licensure program?**
 - Currently, no institution in MN is offering the ABE license. The University of Minnesota was accepting ABE licensure students through fall 2017, but then discontinued the program.
 - **Hamline University is in the process to become approved to offer this credential. The proposed program is 12 credits for those who hold an initial teaching license and 30 credits for those seeking ABE as their initial teaching license. More news by spring 2020!**
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