

Bilingual Education Programs
Educational Psychology Department
College of Education and Human Development
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-4225

Our Mission

The bilingual education program is committed to serving culturally and linguistically diverse students across Texas, the United States, and around the world.

Current Academic Programs

- The Interdisciplinary Science Degree Pk-4, Bilingual Generalist
- The Masters Degree in Educational Psychology (EPSY) with an area of emphasis in Hispanic Bilingual Education. It is the first graduate program in bilingual education in the U.S. implemented fully via distance education.
- The Ph.D. Doctoral Degree in Educational Psychology with an area of emphasis in Hispanic Bilingual Education.

Research Agenda

For the past 13 years faculty in the program, we have been engaged in research targeted to assist Hispanic children, youth, and their families to improve their educational background and opportunities.

Dozens of referred journal papers have been published in the areas of assessment, transitional bilingual programs, dual language programs, biliteracy, content area instruction, Hispanic gifted education, ethno-science and ethno-mathematics, as well as a recent study addressing the status of recruitment and retention of bilingual educators across Texas. Faculty in the bilingual programs are also author/co-authors of national textbooks targeted to improving language development and literacy skills for children.

The bilingual program recently were awarded by the Institute of Educational Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, \$6,762, 116 to conduct a longitudinal study to improve language development and biliteracy skills for Hispanic students grades K-3. The program is one out of three proposals selected by the government to conduct this important research for Hispanic students in the U.S.

Teaching Agenda

Undergraduate Studies.

The bilingual program currently includes 78 undergraduate bilingual students working toward an interdisciplinary degree K-4, bilingual generalist. All students in the program have an assistantship sponsored by the Department of Education. The program received in 2002, \$2,000,000 to sponsor a five- year teacher preparation program to address the shortage of bilingual teachers in Texas.

Graduate Masters Studies.

Currently the Hispanic bilingual program has 38 in-service bilingual teachers working toward the Masters degree in EPSY with a specialization in Bilingual Education. In 2000 the program received over \$3,000,000 from the Department of Education to implement the first Masters degree in Bilingual Education fully implemented via distance education. Currently we are serving via interactive television network (TTVN system) 11 eleven school district in four sites: Galveston, University Center at Woodlands, Houston, The TAMU-College Station Campus, Central Texas, and East Texas in Mount Pleasant.

Graduate Doctoral Studies.

Currently the bilingual program has five active doctoral students. They have graduate assistantships sponsored by the bilingual program, EPSY Department. In addition to conducting their own research agenda, the students have formal teaching assignments in the interdisciplinary PK-4 bilingual generalist program. To date, the doctoral program has graduated over 17 doctoral students, most of whom are serving as University faculty across the country.

International Agenda with Mexico

Faculty in the programs for the past five years have been engaged with the Universidad Iberoamericana, Puebla, Mexico, in several research projects, as well as serving on doctoral dissertation committees. Faculty have collaborated teaching doctoral courses as well as providing services to la Universidad Iberoamericana and Centro Educativo Ixtliyollotl, Cholula, Puebla, Mexico. Additionally, the program has assisted in study abroad exchange programs in Cuernavaca, Mexico, for the advanced language training of preservice and inservice bilingual teachers. We expect to broaden this vital professional experience with other institutions across Mexico.

Bilingual Resources

The bilingual program operates from multiple suites of modern, well-equipped offices, as well as an extensive bilingual library, which is connected worldwide via computer to other libraries in the country and abroad. Due to state, federal and university support, the Bilingual program at Texas A&M has numerous state-of-the-art technology assets including: (1) Two TTVN video conferencing classrooms connected to numerous video-based classrooms around the state of Texas. These are available exclusively to program personnel and will facilitate our ability to interact with teachers and personnel located in multiple locations; (2) Its own ten station state-of-the-art Computer Lab; (3) A fully equipped Video and Multimedia Production Lab; (4) A staff of Video and Multimedia Developers; (5) A bilingual/ESL curriculum and resource bilingual library, and (6) Trained and experienced Staff in Bilingual Curriculum Development, Distance Teaching Formats and Instructional Design. The school districts in Houston and Central Texas areas, have verbally and written agreement to offer their facilities for training and research.

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