

E-Teacher: English for Law

Offered by Nashville State Community College and the University of Memphis

The Office of English Language Programs of the U.S. State Department is offering an online teacher training course on "English for Law" 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 provide participants with an extensive overview of the concepts behind the legal system in the United States and give a framework for teaching English to professionals in the legal field by introducing the best current practices in the English for Specific Purposes (ESP) field. Participants will: (1) increase their understanding of current ESP methodology, (2) improve their legal analysis skills in American English, (3) better understand the basis of the U.S. legal system, (4) increase their understanding and basic use of concordances for classroom learning, (4) enhance both their general and legal vocabulary, (5) have the opportunity to network and share views with local, regional, and international colleagues on a variety of legal and ESP issues through e-mail, synchronous, asynchronous discussions and other media formats. This course will begin in late September and run for 10 weeks. Participants who successfully complete the course will receive a certificate. Five Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be awarded upon completion of the course.

Requirements

Candidates should be teachers, teacher trainers or ministry officials who are or will be professionally involved with English for Law. They should be highly motivated individuals who are both dedicated to their own professional development and willing to share their knowledge with colleagues. Candidates should be able to do academic work at a U.S. university (an advanced level of reading and writing, roughly equivalent to a TOEFL score of 525), understand technical terms in English relating to computers and the Internet, and possess some understanding of the necessary vocabulary in the area of Legal English. Candidates should also have regular access to the Internet and an audio CD player, be able to navigate in Windows and create a Word document, be familiar with the Internet and web browsers, and be able to type in English well enough to perform on-line tasks in real-time and to submit written assignments in a timely manner.

Candidates will be nominated by American embassies and selected in a competitive process. Interested candidates should contact the Regional English Language Officer or Cultural Affairs Officer at the nearest American embassy.