

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 licensure requirements in Hamline's ABE initial license if 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.
 - Those who have completed Hamline's TEFL certificate will be able to transfer 4 credits to the ABE license, along with 35 practicum hours toward the required 100 hours.
7. **Where can I complete an ABE licensure program?**
- **Hamline University is the only institute in the state that is currently approved to offer the ABE license as both an initial teaching credential and an additional license.**
Apply online at [Hamline Graduate Admissions](#)

For questions regarding transfer credits and course scheduling, contact Mike Noreen, Graduate Student Advising and Success Manager, (651) 523-2450, mnoreen01@hamline.edu

For questions regarding course content and working in the field of adult education, contact either Betsy Parrish (bparrish@hamline.edu) or Julia Reimer (jreimer@hamline.edu).

8. What's involved in getting the Initial ABE license if you DON'T hold a license in another area?

- The initial ABE license is 30 graduate credits, and it's possible that previous coursework you have completed (including graduate credits for ATLAS professional development offerings) may count toward this total. The basic coursework involves:

Schools & Society	4 cr.
Educational Psychology	4 cr.
Education and Cultural Diversity	4 cr.
Theory to Practice	4 cr.
Exceptionality	2 cr.
Introduction to Adult Basic Education	4 cr.
Developing Literacy Skills	2 cr.
Course Design for Adult Education	2 cr.
Assessment in Adult Education	2 cr.
ABE field experience*	0 cr.
Elective	2 cr.
	30 cr. total

9. What's involved in getting the Additional ABE license if you DO hold a license in another area?

- The Additional ABE License is 12 graduate credits, and it's possible that previous coursework you have completed (including graduate credits for ATLAS professional development offerings) may count toward this total. You will complete these ABE-specific courses:

Introduction to Adult Basic Education	4 cr.
Developing Literacy Skills	2 cr.
Course Design for Adult Education	2 cr.
Assessment in Adult Education	2 cr.
ABE field experience*	0 cr.
Elective	2 cr.
	12 cr. total