



Information currently available regarding EMPOWER's scholarship Cohort C

- Cohort C is the last scholar-cohort and application-period left in the EMPOWER grant program.
- The detailed program information and the call-for-applications will go out to grant-partner-district's ESL Coordinators & will be posted here, *at the beginning of the application period-estimated sometime between mid-July and August 31, 2024 - Actual timing TBD.*
- **If you would like to receive an email with the call for applications, once the application period begins:** Send an email to aileenmc@uab.edu, asking to be included in the EMPOWER Cohort C call for applications email announcement. Include an email address that you will be checking regularly over the summer.
- Educators who get selected to participate in the last grant scholar-cohort, and successfully apply to the graduate degree program, would begin the EMPOWER-program-specific ESL degree program in January 2025 (UAB's Spring 2025 semester).
- To be eligible for the **EMPOWER grant program**, you would need to:
 - Meet the eligibility requirements to be accepted into the degree program ([see website](#); direct your questions to contact person listed on that page/section; Note: Our degree program does NOT require applicants to take the GRE or the MAT)
 - Degree track options applicable to the EMPOWER grant program: MA in ESL; Alternative Masters in ESL; EdS in TESOL (Certification Track)
 - If the Educator would be taking the *traditional MA in ESL* or the *EdS in TESOL (Certification Track)* degree track: Educators who would be taking these tracks, if they have already taken any graduate-level class in ESL/TESOL, then they would not be eligible for the EMPOWER grant program.
 - If the Applicant/Educator would be taking the *Alternative Masters in ESL* degree track:
 - Prior taking of any graduate-level ESL/TESOL classes does not affect these Educator's eligibility to participating in the EMPOWER grant program.
 - You would have to receive an official passing score of 155 or higher, on the ESOL Praxis, by October 31
 - UAB offers prospective students a 1-month-paid access to a Praxis Exam online tutoring website/service. If you would be taking the *Alternative Masters in ESL* degree track and if you have not yet already gotten a score of 155 or higher on the ESOL Praxis Exam and if you would utilize a 1-month Praxis Exam online tutoring website/service, then: send me an email asking me to put you in contact with the person in UAB School of Education who coordinates access to the Praxis Exam online tutoring website/service.

- ***For any degree track and any degree program requirements information, [see website](#); direct your questions to contact person listed on that page***
- Must be employed by one of these EMPOWER-grant-partner school districts during the 2024-2025 school year, as a **teacher** or a **paraprofessional in a classroom(s)**:
 - Alabaster City School District
 - Birmingham City Schools
 - Jefferson County Schools
 - Pelham City School District
 - Shelby County Schools
 - Tarrant City Schools
 - *Note: Educators serving in Hoover City Schools may be eligible, TBD*
- Must have regular access to at least 1 Multilingual Learner during each school year that you would be matriculating through the degree program (*must be serving in a classroom where you have regular access to at least 1 Multilingual Learner, 2024-2025 through the 2026-2027 school year*).
- Must complete a 2024 EMPOWER application during the application period (dates to be determined, sometime between July-September). Even if you completed an EMPOWER application in a previous year, you would still need to complete a 2024 EMPOWER application.
- Will agree to follow the course plan set by the EMPOWER program (take each class with the other cohort members, unless a special exemption is made). Information regarding the course plan for each degree track of the cohort will not be ready/available *until once* the application period begins.
- Must be available for and participate in a few grant-related in-person class and program activities, for a few of the classes (2-4 classes) within the degree program. We understand Educators have limited schedules due to school responsibilities. The few in-person class activities will be scheduled outside of times that Educators have school responsibilities. A vast majority of the class-activity will be asynchronous/online.
- Note: As the final cohort is not yet fully designed, the need to add additional eligibility requirements may occur (yet is not likely). The call for applications will include all final information.

The above is all the information we can furnish at this time. All finalized and complete information will be posted here, later, at the beginning of the application period.

Please hold questions until after the application period begins - It will begin sometime between mid-July and August 31. The remaining details will need to wait until after the application period begins. There will be ample time during the application period, to ask any questions, if need be (if anything is not covered by the information everyone will receive at that time).

Note: If, based on the above information, you determine that you are not eligible for the EMPOWER grant program, yet you would like to chat with a person regarding any educational degree program we offer at UAB or regarding any other scholarship programs, you can contact Caran Kennedy, Director of Recruitment, Scholarships, and Student Engagement, at carankennedy@uab.edu or 205-996-9843