During the Program Year 2000, the Office of Adult Education of the United States Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education presented nine grants to Adult Education ESOL programs in Tennessee. The following curriculum is the culmination of the work produced by these grantees in a joint action research project.

The purpose of this curriculum is to provide English language instruction that will emphasize instruction on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, naturalization procedures, civic participation and U.S. history and government.

The curriculum is divided into the six ESOL levels, identified by the NRS (National Reporting System). It is not intended that students progress through this curriculum sequentially. The instructor may present topic-centered lessons that integrate information from several areas.

“For adult English language learners, civics education is a broad term that includes:
• Instruction on how to gain U.S. citizenship;
• Instruction about U.S. history and culture, including lessons on diversity and multiculturalism;
• Instruction and guidance on becoming active participants in their new communities.

A key element of civic participation education for adult English language learners is that learning needs to have real-life consequences. One of its purposes is for learners to become active in community life. For example, learners might collaborate to fight for a community improvement, learn about and participate in the American electoral system (if appropriate), or join the local Parent Teacher Association.” (Lynda Terrill, National Clearinghouse for ESL Literacy Education.)

“I wish I can spend time in America using English without my husband’s help. Someday I want to study at university and have a job.”

—Student Learner
**Beginning ESL Literacy, Level I**

**After completing Level I, the student will be able to:**
- Identify the current U.S. president.
- Locate the United States and Tennessee on a world map.
- Locate county and city of residence on a Tennessee map.
- Recognize compulsory schooling for children 6-18, enrollment procedures and the importance of regular school attendance.
- Recognize U.S. currency, symbols relating to money and read prices (dollar/cent signs, decimal point).
- Recognize a check and a money order and read the amount.
- Demonstrate understanding of U.S. holidays and social customs.

**Beginning ESL, Level II**

**After completing Level II, the student will be able to:**
- Identify basic government agencies (post office, social security, health department, Department of Human Services).
- Demonstrate ability to purchase stamps and mail a package and a letter.
- Identify community services (hospital, police, fire, public schools, library, parks and recreation areas).
- Identify basic government agencies (post office, social security, health department, Department of Human Resources).
- Demonstrate understanding of U.S. holidays and social customs.

**Low Intermediate, Level III**

**After completing Level III, the student will be able to:**
- Identify places in the community and describe public services.
- Identify the current U.S. President, Vice President and state Governor.
- Identify required documents related to transportation (driver’s license, insurance card, registration, passport).
- Identify basic utility companies (water, gas, electric, telephone and cable).
- Read and understand traffic signs.
- Identify safe driving practices (seat belts, child safety restraints).
High Intermediate ESL, Level IV

After completing Level IV, the student will be able to:

• Locate various businesses, governmental and community agencies in local area (doctor’s office, school, hospital, post office, church, synagogue, and mosque).
• Identify procedures for mailing a letter or package (domestic and international), for purchasing money orders and registering mail.
• Demonstrate ability to utilize a variety of delivery services (post office, UPS, FEDEX).
• Identify the current U.S. president and vice president, state and local officials and their functions.
• Recognize vocabulary and tradition associated with major American holidays and contrast with native customs.
• Identify various means of locating housing (signs, ads, personal contact) and report maintenance, repair problems.
• Compare/contrast U.S. legalities regarding parenting practices (compare/contrast practices to those of other countries).
• Identify housing costs (first, last and security, utility deposits).

Low Advanced, Level V

After completing Level V, the student will be able to:

• Demonstrate understanding of trial by jury and other elements in a U.S. court of law (judge, jury, lawyers).
• Demonstrate appropriate response when stopped by law enforcement officers.
• Describe a problem/request service (emergency road assistance, car accident and vehicle theft).
• Locate and access community services, organizations, and government agencies.
• Demonstrate understanding of American system of government (three branches).
• Request and respond to information from businesses, government and community organizations.
• Demonstrate an understanding of the responsibilities of owning a gun.
After completing Level VI, the student will be able to:

• Understand the conditions required when applying for citizenship:
  — Be at least 18 years old.
  — Have been a lawful permanent resident of the United States for a continuous five-year period.
  — Can read, write and speak basic English.
  — Have a knowledge of U.S. history and government.
  — Is a person of good moral character and has not been convicted of a serious crime.
  — If married to an American citizen, can apply for citizenship after having lived in the U.S. for three years and after having been married for those three years.

• Understand the steps to citizenship:
  — Be eligible to apply
  — Complete the application process
  — Pass the INS interview
  — Swear the Oath of Allegiance to the United States

Understand and be able to give correct answers to the 100 Questions distributed by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (see Student Learning Plan—“Citizenship Test Preparation”).

Resources

*Citizenship: Passing the Test* (Low Beginning)
Published by New Readers Press.
This book covers all essential topics required for civics questions within the INS naturalization interview. Some of the information presented in the book is about American history, branches of U.S. government, holidays, government leaders, national symbols, voting, and practice tests. A student book, audiotape and teacher’s guide are available.

*The INS Citizenship Interview: Will They Pass?*
Published by New Readers Press.
This 50-minute video takes ESL students step by step through the process of the INS interview, including the oral test, and shows the level of language skills and content knowledge required to succeed. It provides excellent modeling for people preparing for the citizenship test and interview and is particularly useful for teachers helping them prepare.
The Way to U.S. Citizenship (Intermediate Level)
Published by New Readers Press.
This is a basic United States history and government workbook designed by CASAS. It focuses on integration of language and content while recognizing the unique learning needs of permanent residents and citizenship candidates. Thirty-six lessons each include a narrative, an activity section with practice exercises and a quiz.

Living in the United States
Published by New Readers Press.
A pocket reference guide to U.S. culture that includes maps, vital statistics, and a brief history to assist newcomers to the U.S. It also includes practical advice on topics such as banking, health, and local customs.

Preparation for Citizenship
Published by Steck-Vaughn.
Readability levels for this text are levels 2-4. It includes INS core content, 100 authentic study questions, and application forms.

America’s Story
Published by Steck-Vaughn.
This is an excellent series (text 1 and text 2) on American history that is written at readability levels of 2-3. Features covered are exploration, settlement, the fight for freedom, growth of the nation, the Civil War, Reconstruction, westward expansion, the Industrial Revolution, the World Wars, the space race, civil rights and the Clinton presidency.
Text 1 is before 1865. Text 2 is after 1865.

Stories We Brought With Us (Beginning Level)
Published by Pearson Education.
Traditional tales from various countries offer two versions of each story—one with less complex structures and limited vocabulary—making it ideal for multi-level reading classes. The multicultural content encourages students to draw on their own traditions and backgrounds for comparison and contrast.

Handbook for Citizenship (Beginning-Advanced level)
Published by Pearson Education.
Designed for oral use, this text teaches the information needed to answer oral U.S. citizenship exam questions. Contents include early U.S. history, U.S. government, and writing practice for the INS exam. A cassette tape and tapescript are also available.
Citizenship Made Simple (Beginning-Intermediate)
Published by Delta Systems Co., Inc.
Individuals wishing to apply for U.S. citizenship, ESOL instructors, and legal professionals will find this to be a comprehensive and easy-to-read manual. The book covers frequently used terms, requirements for U.S. citizenship, the application process, and the test. The book also includes a directory of immigration offices and U.S. passport agencies.

Our Constitution, Our Government:
Getting to Know the United States (Beginning-Intermediate)
Published by Delta Systems Co., Inc.
This text uses the Constitution of the United States to study our system of government. It explains how and why our system of government is so successful. The teacher’s guide provides additional exercises through case studies, role-playing and written activities.