

I taught ESL for high schools in China for years before I came to US seven years ago. I am currently working at Woodstock High School District in IL teaching Chinese Level I, II, III and AP. My educational experience in the U.S. includes obtaining a Masters Degree in Education from Alverno College and completing the coursework at UW-Milwaukee for certification in teaching Mandarin. My Masters Degree studies provided me with a vision of American education as a whole, with a focus on classroom instruction, methodology, curriculum development and assessment design for a variety of language proficiency levels. My Masters research titled “*Standards-based Instruction in a Chinese Language Class in Wisconsin Schools*” extended my knowledge of Chinese language education nationwide and increased my awareness of the educator’s role. My research also provided an overall insight of what standards mean to students, producing standards-based curriculum and assessment, and creating learning situations that improve student comprehension and communication skills in target language..

In the World Language Certification program at UW-Milwaukee, I studied the history, politics, and social contexts of bilingual education in the United States, current research regarding educational applied linguistics and second language acquisition as well as best educational practices for minority language students.

The 2013 Virginia STARTALK-Chinese Teacher Academy has given me a great opportunity to network with Chinese teachers from all over the country as well as instruction on Teaching Pedagogy by Dr. Tseng. In the past three weeks, I reviewed the theories of second language acquisition and implemented them in practice in the following two weeks’ teaching. This process has provided me with valuable insights as to what I could do to make improvements by creating task-based curricula with authentic materials, communicative meaningful activities that related to students’ real life situation. The most valuable and memorable experience I have obtained from this program was team-working and collaboration. Each teacher has not only generously shared their activities and teaching materials but also contributed their teaching ideas and strategies.