Reading Education

The Reading Education Master’s Degree is an innovative, educational program that links literacy research to practical classroom practices. This 36-semester hour program is offered online, nationwide as an advanced degree program for credentialed teachers. The curriculum for the program is based on the International Reading Association standards which also encompass the Florida Department of Education Reading Endorsement and certification requirements. This advanced program requires several field experiences which may be arranged through the Department of Teacher Education and Educational Leadership Graduate Advising Office. Upon program completion, candidates are encouraged to add the Reading Endorsement/Certification to their teaching certificate. The program is approved for both the K-12 Reading Endorsement and K-12 Reading Certification by the Florida Department of Education. Reading is a critical shortage area in the state of Florida. The program is part of the NCATE accredited Professional Education Unit.

The M.Ed. in Reading Education is designed to prepare educators as reading teachers, reading coaches, district-level literacy specialists, and publishing industry consultants. New cohorts are admitted in the summer and fall of each year. The application deadline for summer admission is March 1. The application deadline for fall admission is June 1.

Based on the International Reading Association’s Standards for Reading Professionals, this program integrates course work and clinical experiences to prepare graduates in the following areas:

- Foundations of reading and writing processes and instruction
- Instructional practices, approaches, methods, and curriculum materials to support reading and writing instruction
- Assessment tools and practices to plan and evaluate effective reading instruction
- Integration of foundational knowledge, use of instructional practices, approaches and methods, curriculum materials, and the appropriate use of assessments

Admission Requirements

In addition to the University graduate admission requirements described in the Admissions section (http://catalog.uwf.edu/graduate/admissions) of the catalog, the applicant must meet the following minimum departmental admission requirements for provisional admission:

- Hold professional teaching certification
- Have earned a GPA of at least 3.0 on bachelor’s degree*
- Submit a current (within five years) official Graduate Record Exam (GRE) verbal score OR Miller Analogies Test (MAT) score**
- Submit a letter of intent that includes the following information: your background, short- and long-term goals, contributions you would like to make to your field of study, and strengths you bring to the program
- Submit contact information (email addresses and phone numbers) for two professional references
- Demonstrate proficiency in ESOL via completion of an ESOL survey course or district in-service points
- Demonstrate proficiency of the Additional Elements of the Florida Uniform Core Curriculum (UCC)

To be fully admitted to the program, the following requirements must be met in addition to the requirements for provisional admission (above). Full admission is required by the fifth week of the first semester. Students will be unable to register for a second semester of coursework until full admission has been granted.

- Purchase and activation of a subscription to the Department’s assessment system, Tk20, within the first week of the first semester
- Completion of the Professional Education Applicant Disposition Scale by each person identified as a professional reference
- Completion of the Professional Education Applicant Disposition Self-rating Scale within Tk20

* Applicants who do not meet the GPA requirement but submit a desired current GRE verbal or MAT score at or above the 50th percentile and meet all remaining admission requirements may be conditionally admitted to the program.

** The graduate admission test may be waived for the following:

- Applicants must have an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher from an accredited institution.

All approvals for admission to the Department of Teacher Education and Educational Leadership are subject to reevaluation as students progress through the program. Students denied admission or removed from the program may appeal the decision to the Dean, College of Education and Professional Studies.

Department of Teacher Education and Educational Leadership students are expected to adhere to the Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida and national standards of conduct associated with professional, accreditation, and state agencies. Students who are struggling to meet content and/or disposition standards and/or competencies may be referred to the Culture of Achievement through System of Tiered support (CAST) process. Any student who is referred to the CAST process and does not successfully complete the process may be denied continued enrollment in any professional education program.

Degree Requirements

A grade of C or better is required for all coursework to be applied to the degree program.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAE 5345</td>
<td>Teaching Pupils to be Effective Writers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAE 5468</td>
<td>Literature for Children and Young Adults</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RED 5515</td>
<td>Classroom Reading Assessments</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RED 6060</td>
<td>Foundations of Middle and Secondary Literacy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>RED 6116</td>
<td>Foundations of Early Literacy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>RED 6240</td>
<td>Differentiating Instruction</td>
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<tr>
<td>RED 6546</td>
<td>Identifying and Preventing Reading Difficulties</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>RED 6747</td>
<td>Research and Trends in Reading</td>
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<td>Reading Practicum</td>
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<td>RED 7247</td>
<td>The Organization and Administration of Reading Programs</td>
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<td>EDF 6460</td>
<td>Foundations of Measurement</td>
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<td>EDG 6916</td>
<td>Action Research</td>
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Total Hours 36
Students must also successfully pass Florida Teacher Certification Examinations:

- General Knowledge
- Professional
- Subject Area
- Reading