

# LITERACY EDUCATION, MEd

**Banner Code:** E1-MED-EDLI

703-993-7611

Email: [literacy@gmu.edu](mailto:literacy@gmu.edu)

Website: <https://education.gmu.edu/literacy/>

The master's degree in Literacy Education provides an in-depth understanding of literacy development, scientifically-based literacy research, and evidence-based instructional, assessment, and intervention practices in literacy. Courses combine current research and theory with practical, hands-on experience. The degree is designed for educators with at least one year of teaching experience in PreK-12 classrooms or more informal settings. Completion of the Literacy Leadership for Diverse Schools concentration may lead to eligibility for the Reading Specialist endorsement in Virginia.

The Literacy/Reading Instruction Graduate Certificate (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/education-human-development/school-education/literacy-reading-instruction-graduate-certificate/>) is also available to educators who already hold a master's degree but are interested in gaining additional expertise in literacy/reading instruction and leadership or in preparing to work as a Reading Specialist or literacy coach. Literacy(ies), Culture, and Reading is available as a primary or secondary specialization in the PhD in Education (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/education-human-development/school-education/education-phd/>) degree program.

## Available Concentrations

### Concentration in Literacy Leadership for Diverse Schools

The Literacy Leadership for Diverse Schools concentration is designed for educators interested in assuming leadership roles in literacy, including serving as a Reading Specialist. In addition to developing an in-depth understanding of literacy development, scientifically-based literacy research, and evidence-based instruction, assessment, and intervention in literacy, students will develop the knowledge and leadership skills needed to serve as a Reading Specialist.

Completion of all requirements earns students a master's degree in Literacy Education and may lead to eligibility for the K-12 Reading Specialist endorsement in Virginia. (Additional state licensure requirements include an initial teaching license, a satisfactory score on the state-mandated licensure exam, and at least 3 years of teaching experience under contract). Some elective coursework may be applied toward a secondary graduate certificate within the College of Education and Human Development which may lead to additional licensure endorsements in areas such as Gifted Education, Special Education, or English as a Second Language PreK-12.

### Concentration in K-12 Literacy Instruction (non-licensure)

The K-12 Literacy Instruction concentration is designed for educators interested in developing additional expertise in K-12 classroom literacy instruction along with an understanding of the unique learning needs of K-12 students.

Some elective coursework may be applied toward a secondary graduate certificate within the College of Education and Human Development

which may lead to additional licensure endorsements in areas such as Gifted Education, Special Education, or English as a Second Language PreK-12.

## Admissions & Policies

### Admissions

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/>).

In addition, applicants for the Literacy Education, MEd should have at least one year of teaching experience.

### Policies

For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP6 Graduate Policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/>).

## Requirements

### Degree Requirements

Total credits: 30

#### Core Coursework

Code	Title	Credits
EDRD 640	Trajectory of Literacy Research	2
EDRD 641	Trends and Issues in Literacy	2
EDRD 642	Foundations of Literacy Instruction: Code-Based Skills	3
EDRD 643	Foundations of Literacy Instruction: Meaning-Based Skills	3
EDRD 644	Literacy Assessment and Intervention <sup>1</sup>	3
EDRD 645	Supervised Literacy Practicum <sup>1</sup>	3
Total Credits		16

1

EDRD 644 and EDRD 645 must be taken concurrently.

### Concentration in Literacy Leadership for Diverse Schools (LLDS)

This concentration strengthens teachers' understanding of literacy development, scientifically-based literacy research, and evidence-based instruction, assessment, and intervention in literacy. It also provides opportunities to develop the leadership skills needed to serve as a Reading Specialist.

Completion of all degree requirements enables eligibility for the K-12 Reading Specialist endorsement in Virginia. (Additional state licensure requirements include an initial teaching license, a satisfactory score on the state-mandated licensure exam, and at least 3 years of teaching experience under contract). Some elective coursework in ESL, special education, and/or gifted education may be applied toward add-on

licenses in those areas. Students must earn a B- or higher in all core courses for the degree and all required concentration courses.

Select courses may also be applied to the Literacy Coaching concentration of the Literacy/Reading Instruction Graduate Certificate (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/education-human-development/school-education/literacy-reading-instruction-graduate-certificate/>) for students adding this as a secondary certificate to their degree program.

### Coursework

Code	Title	Credits
EDRD 646	School-Based Leadership in Literacy	3
EDRD 647	Introduction to Literacy Coaching	2

### Electives

Select 9 credits from the following: <sup>1</sup> 9

EDAT 510	Introduction to Assistive Technology	
EDAT 524	Universal Design for Learning	
EDCI 510	Linguistics for PreK-12 ESOL Teachers	
EDCI 516	Bilingualism and Language Acquisition Research	
EDCI 519	Methods of Teaching Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Learners	
EDCI 621	Introduction to Gifted and Talented Learners	
EDCI 622	Curriculum and Instructional Strategies for Gifted Learners	
EDCI 623	Supporting the Social Emotional Needs of Gifted Learners	
EDCI 630	Supporting English Learners in PK-12 Schools	
EDRD 625	Integrating Literacy and Technology for K-12 Learners	
EDRD 626	Writing Development and Instruction for K-12 Learners	
EDRD 627	Comprehension and Vocabulary Development for K-12 Learners	
EDRD 628	Word Analysis: Phonics, Vocabulary, and Spelling for K-12 Learners	
EDRD 680	Foundations of Coaching and Fostering Professional Learning <sup>2</sup>	
EDRD 681	Collaboration and Communication in Literacy Coaching <sup>2</sup>	
EDRD 682	Creating Change through Data-Oriented Coaching <sup>2</sup>	
EDRD 683	Trends and Issues in Literacy Instruction and Literacy Coaching <sup>2</sup>	
EDSE 501	Introduction to Special Education	
EDSE 502	Classroom Management and Individualized Behavior Supports	
EDSE 517	Computer Applications for Special Populations	
EDSE 540	Characteristics of Students with Disabilities who Access the General Curriculum	
EDSE 619	Principles and Procedures of Behavior Analysis	

EDUC 537	Introduction to Culturally Linguistically Diverse Learners	
SEED 502	Young Adult Literature in Multicultural Settings	
SEED 509	Perspectives on Extraordinary Teaching	
Total Credits		14

<sup>1</sup>

Check course descriptions for prerequisites. Students may choose an alternate elective with advisor approval.

<sup>2</sup>

Students must complete all required courses for the degree and concentration before registering for this course. It may be applied to the Literacy Coaching concentration of the Literacy/Reading Instruction Graduate Certificate (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/education-human-development/school-education/literacy-reading-instruction-graduate-certificate/>) for students who add this as a secondary certificate.

### Concentration in K-12 Literacy Instruction (non-licensure) (KLIN)

This concentration strengthens teachers' understanding of literacy development, and research-based classroom instruction and assessment in literacy. This concentration does not provide eligibility for the K-12 Reading Specialist endorsement in Virginia. Some coursework in ESL, special education, and/or gifted education may be applied toward add-on licenses in those areas.

### Coursework

Code	Title	Credits
Select 14 credits from the following (including at least 9 credits of EDRD courses): <sup>1</sup>		14
EDAT 510	Introduction to Assistive Technology	
EDAT 524	Universal Design for Learning	
EDCI 510	Linguistics for PreK-12 ESOL Teachers	
EDCI 516	Bilingualism and Language Acquisition Research	
EDCI 519	Methods of Teaching Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Learners	
EDCI 621	Introduction to Gifted and Talented Learners	
EDCI 622	Curriculum and Instructional Strategies for Gifted Learners	
EDCI 623	Supporting the Social Emotional Needs of Gifted Learners	
EDCI 630	Supporting English Learners in PK-12 Schools	
EDRD 625	Integrating Literacy and Technology for K-12 Learners	
EDRD 626	Writing Development and Instruction for K-12 Learners	
EDRD 627	Comprehension and Vocabulary Development for K-12 Learners	
EDRD 628	Word Analysis: Phonics, Vocabulary, and Spelling for K-12 Learners	
EDRD 646	School-Based Leadership in Literacy	
EDRD 647	Introduction to Literacy Coaching	

EDSE 501	Introduction to Special Education
EDSE 502	Classroom Management and Individualized Behavior Supports
EDSE 517	Computer Applications for Special Populations
EDSE 540	Characteristics of Students with Disabilities who Access the General Curriculum
EDSE 619	Principles and Procedures of Behavior Analysis
EDUC 537	Introduction to Culturally Linguistically Diverse Learners
SEED 502	Young Adult Literature in Multicultural Settings
SEED 509	Perspectives on Extraordinary Teaching
<hr/>	
Total Credits	14

1

Check course descriptions for prerequisites. Students may choose an alternate elective with advisor approval.