The Literacy/Reading Instruction Graduate Certificate offers coursework to prepare teachers who already hold a master's degree to serve as literacy leaders, reading specialists, or literacy coaches in K-12 settings.

Available Concentrations

Concentration in Reading Specialist (K-12)
The Reading Specialist (K-12) concentration is designed for teachers who already have a master's degree and are interested in developing the expertise needed to serve as literacy leaders. Coursework helps teachers develop an in-depth understanding of literacy development across the lifespan, instructional and assessment strategies for individuals and groups of students, and provides preparation as a Reading Specialist. Successful completion of this state-approved sequence of courses can lead to eligibility for the K-12 Reading Specialist license in Virginia. Additional state requirements for the license include holding a master's degree, having an initial teaching license, earning a satisfactory score on the Reading for Virginia Educators: Reading Specialist exam, and having at least three years of teaching experience under contract.

Concentration in Literacy Coaching
The Literacy Coaching concentration is designed for current Reading Specialists or others with a strong background in literacy who want to more effectively support teachers' professional learning, and ultimately student achievement, through literacy coaching. Coursework provides an in-depth understanding of adult learning, effective professional development techniques, strategies for supporting collaboration and communication, using data to foster change, ways to more effectively use technology when working with teachers, and issues of diversity and equity in literacy instruction.

Admissions & Policies

Admissions
Students enrolling in the Literacy Coaching concentration must hold either a Master's degree in Literacy (or closely-related field) or license/endorsement as a Reading Specialist.