

LITERACY EDUCATION, MEd

Banner Code: E1-MED-EDLI

Reading Specialist (licensure)

Phone: 703-993-7611

Email: literacy@gmu.edu

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

K-12 Literacy Instruction (non-licensure)

Phone: 703-993-7611

Email: literacy@gmu.edu

Website: <https://education.gmu.edu/literacy/med-non-licensure>

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 Reading Specialist (Licensure) concentration may lead to eligibility for the Reading Specialist endorsement in Virginia.

The Literacy/Reading Instruction Graduate Certificate (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/education-human-development/teaching-learning/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 (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/education-human-development/education-phd/>) degree program.

Available Concentrations

Concentration in Reading Specialist (licensure)

The Reading Specialist (licensure) 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 in which the teaching of reading was an important responsibility).

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

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.

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 (<https://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 AP.6 Graduate Policies (<https://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 ¹	3
EDRD 645	Supervised Literacy Practicum ¹	3
Total Credits		16

¹ EDRD 644 and EDRD 645 must be taken in the same semester or term.

Concentration in Reading Specialist (licensure)

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 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 successful classroom teaching experience in which the teaching of reading was an important responsibility.) Students must earn a B or higher in all core courses for the degree and all required concentration courses.

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: ¹		9
ECED 691	Policy Perspectives in Early Childhood Education	
EDAT 510	Introduction to Assistive Technology	
EDAT 524	Universal Design for Learning	
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	
EDEP 551	Principles of Learner Motivation	
EDEP 591	Introduction to Data Literacy in Education	
EDEP 592	Understanding Data in Data-Driven Decision Making	
EDEP 602	Fundamentals of Educational Psychology	
EDEP 653	Culture and Intelligence	
EDEP 654	Learning, Motivation, and Self-Regulation	
EDPO 600	History of Education Reform	
EDPO 601	P-12 Policy Challenges	
EDPO 603	Conflict and Consensus: Education, Interest Groups and Advocacy	
EDRD 624	Teaching with Texts in K-8 Classrooms	
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 ²
EDRD 681	Collaboration and Communication in Literacy Coaching ²
EDRD 682	Creating Change through Data-Oriented Coaching ²
EDSE 636	Supporting Communication and Literacy for Individuals with Autism
EDUC 616	Teaching with Generative AI

Total Credits

14

¹ Students may choose an alternate elective with advisor approval.

² Students must complete all required courses for the degree and concentration before registering for this course.

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

This concentration strengthens teachers' understanding of literacy development and evidence-based classroom instruction and assessment in literacy. This concentration does not provide eligibility for the Reading Specialist endorsement in Virginia.

Coursework

Code	Title	Credits
Select 14 credits from the following (including at least 9 credits of EDRD courses): ¹		14
ECED 691	Policy Perspectives in Early Childhood Education	
EDAT 510	Introduction to Assistive Technology	
EDAT 524	Universal Design for Learning	
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	
EDEP 551	Principles of Learner Motivation	
EDEP 591	Introduction to Data Literacy in Education	
EDEP 592	Understanding Data in Data-Driven Decision Making	
EDEP 602	Fundamentals of Educational Psychology	
EDEP 653	Culture and Intelligence	
EDEP 654	Learning, Motivation, and Self-Regulation	
EDPO 600	History of Education Reform	
EDPO 601	P-12 Policy Challenges	
EDPO 603	Conflict and Consensus: Education, Interest Groups and Advocacy	

EDRD 624	Teaching with Texts in K-8 Classrooms
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 647	Introduction to Literacy Coaching
EDSE 636	Supporting Communication and Literacy for Individuals with Autism
EDUC 608	Teacher Leadership for Professional Learning
EDUC 616	Teaching with Generative AI

Total Credits **14**

¹ Students may choose an alternate elective with advisor approval.