

## Reading and Language Education

The School of Education offers three graduate programs in Reading and Language—an M.A. degree and two programs leading to state licensure:

1. Master of Arts in Education with a concentration in Reading and Language
2. Reading Certificate
3. Reading and Language Arts Specialist Credential

All courses in the two state-approved licensure programs may be applied to the MA degree.

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### *Application Procedures*

You must apply separately to the University and to the School of Education.

University applications are available from the SSU Office of Admissions and Records and on the SSU website at [www.sonoma.edu/education/degree.html](http://www.sonoma.edu/education/degree.html). Acceptance into a graduate program in Education is dependent on acceptance to the University.

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Program applications are available from the School of Education by calling 707-664-3115. You may apply on the same form to one program or a combination of the three programs listed above.

Please submit the following materials to the Credentials Office in the School of Education:

1. A completed program application form.
2. *Official* transcripts from each college or university you have attended.  
For the MA, submit one set of transcripts.  
For the Reading Certificate and the R/LA Specialist Credential, submit two sets.  
[Grade-point average requirements: cumulative upper division/graduate 3.0; Education 3.0]
3. A copy of your valid California teaching credential.
4. Two recent letters of reference that address your qualifications as a professional educator and the likelihood of your success in advanced academic coursework.
5. A completed Fieldwork Background sheet documenting the range of your experiences in teaching reading. (See attached.)
6. A Professional Goals Statement that includes a reflection on your teaching experiences and your vision of how graduate study will contribute to your professional goals. Your response will be evaluated on the organization and clarity of your ideas and the appropriate use of written English language conventions. (See attached.)

NOTE: At the time of *completion* of the Reading Certificate and/or the R/LA Specialist Credential (but not the M.A.), you must provide verification of a minimum of three years of teaching experience. You may enter these licensure programs with less experience, but you must have completed three years by the time you submit your application to the state.

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To contact the Reading and Language M.A. Advisor, call 707-664-3238

## ***Reading and Language Masters Degree***

This program is designed to prepare teachers for specialized teaching of reading and language arts to diverse populations of students and for curriculum and instructional leadership in the field of language and literacy. Required coursework focuses on the nature of literacy development at all levels, research and theory in teaching reading and writing, and the improvement of classroom curriculum and methods that emphasize the relationship of literacy to language and concept learning.

NOTE: Students who wish to pursue an MA degree AND a Reading Certificate and/or a Reading and Language Arts Specialist Credential may complete programs concurrently.

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### **Program Coursework – 30-36 Units**

*Reading/Language Core* (9 units in EDRL courses)

- 507 Research in Language and Literacy (3)
- 521A Language Development in First and Second Languages (3)
- 522 Assessment & Teaching in Reading (3)

*Electives* (9 units)

- Supportive coursework may include Reading Certificate courses or study in other approved areas such as English as a second language, curriculum, early childhood education, the arts.

*Education Core* (6 units in EDUC courses)

- 570 Reflective Educator (3)
- 571 Research Paradigms in Education (3)

Students select one of the *Masters Degree Culminating Paths* (6-12 units)

- Thesis (6 units)
  - 598 Developing a Thesis Project (3)
  - 599 Supervised Research for the Thesis/Project (3)
- Individualized exam (9 units)
  - 573 Supervised Study for the Individualized Examination (3)
  - Two other courses
- Cognate (12 units – may include Specialist Credential coursework)
  - 572 Supervised Study for the Cognate (3)
  - Three other courses

## ***Reading Certificate***

The Reading Certificate program prepares individuals to take a leadership role at the school site and emphasizes work with students who experience difficulties with reading. Reading Certificate teachers assist and support other classroom teachers, assess student progress, and monitor student achievement while providing instructional and intervention services. They also play a consultative role in materials and program selection at the district and may take leadership responsibilities at their school site.

The Certificate is the first tier of a two-level state license in the area of reading and language arts. Teachers completing the Reading Certificate program are encouraged to continue to earn the Reading and Language Arts Specialist Credential.

NOTE: Students who wish to pursue an MA degree AND a Reading Certificate and/or a Reading and Language Arts Specialist Credential may complete programs concurrently.

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### **Program Prerequisite**

- A basic teaching credential is required for admission

### **Certificate Prerequisite**

- Applicants for the Reading Certificate must provide verification of a minimum of three years of teaching experience. You may enter this licensure program with less experience, but you must have completed three years by the time you submit your application to the state.

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## **EDRL PROGRAM COURSEWORK – 15 UNITS**

### **Block 1 Developing a Personal Model of Literacy — Spring**

Integrated investigation of literacy research, theories, beliefs and practices aimed at developing a working understanding and reflective stance for each of these themes through in-depth case studies of English learners. Candidates examine and understand the nature of fluent reading and comprehension, assessment approaches, planning and delivery of reading intervention and instruction, and best practices in assisting classroom teachers of English only and English learners. Focused field experiences and assessment that leads to purposeful reading instruction permeate this block.

521A Language Development in First and Second Languages (3)

522 Assessment & Teaching in Reading (3)

### **Reading and Writing Workshop — Summer**

Certificate candidates assess and teach public school students in a summer program for literacy improvement and enrichment in a supervised clinical setting. Candidates deepen their knowledge of reading and language arts assessment, intervention and instructional strategies, in collaboration with and under the supervision of clinical faculty, university faculty and Reading and Language Arts Specialist Credential candidates.

527A Clinical Field Experience (3)

### **Block 2 Developing a Professional Model of Literacy — Fall**

Investigation of literacy research, theories, beliefs and practices in teaching reading and writing, designed to produce a professional knowledge base for each of these themes. Candidates develop a comprehensive set of strategies for promoting fluent reading and comprehension, planning and delivery of literature-based reading curriculum, and assessment-based intervention and instruction. Candidates are prepared for literacy and language arts leadership roles at the school level.

521B Reading & Language Arts in First and Second Languages (3)

524 Literature and Literacy (3)

## ***Reading and Language Arts Specialist Credential***

The Reading and Language Arts Specialist Credential is the second tier of a two-level state license in the area of reading and language arts. This program prepares individuals to work with students in various settings and to perform multiple roles at the district or school level, including assisting and supporting classroom teachers in appropriate assessment and instruction of reading and writing for all students across all grade levels. The R/LA Specialist may also

- Provide direct services to students to help them attain independence in reading and writing
- Do demonstration teaching and curriculum planning for groups and individuals
- Organize and manage language arts programs
- Assess teaching strategies to assist teachers in creating a literacy learning environment
- Provide leadership in materials, textbook, and program selection
- Plan and conduct in-service professional development activities for teachers, administrators, school board members, parents and members of the community

NOTE: Students who wish to pursue an MA degree AND a Reading Certificate and/or a Reading and Language Arts Specialist Credential may complete programs concurrently.

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### **Program Prerequisite**

- All Reading Certificate courses (15 units) including Certificate prerequisites

### **Specialist Credential Prerequisite**

- Applicants for the Reading and Language Arts Specialist Credential must provide verification of a minimum of three years of teaching experience. You may enter this licensure program with less experience, but you must have completed three years by the time you submit your application to the state.
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## **EDRL PROGRAM COURSEWORK – 15 UNITS**

### **Block 3 Developing Research-based Literacy Theory — Spring**

Continued investigation of literacy research, theories, beliefs and practices aimed at developing thorough understanding and a reflective stance for each theme. Candidates examine and critique research-based curricular practices and assessment approaches in professional literature and field settings.

- 523 Curriculum Development for Literacy (3)
- 529 Evaluation in Reading & Language Arts Programs (3)

### **Reading and Writing Workshop — Summer**

Specialist Credential candidates supervise Certificate candidates in assessment and intervention strategies with public school students of diverse reading abilities and backgrounds. Specialist candidates also demonstrate effective teaching of struggling readers, conduct clinical conferences, review clinical reports, and monitor overall clinical experiences under supervision of university faculty.

- 527B Advanced Clinical Field Experience (3)

### **Block 4 Developing Professional Literacy Models — Fall**

Advanced and intensive investigation of literacy research, theories, beliefs and practices. All coursework and field experiences are aimed at articulating a professional knowledge base for each theme. Candidates critique research into reading and writing for diverse student populations, conduct their own literacy studies and focused field experiences to hone their leadership skills for assisting classroom teachers and other educational professionals with literacy education.

- 507 Research in Language and Literacy (3)
- 525 Leadership & Policy in Literacy Programs (3)