

School of Education

Master's of Arts in Education

Reading Program

[Download program information in PDF](#)

Advisor: Theresa Deeney

Email: tdeeney@uri.edu

Overview

The graduate Reading Program prepares classroom teachers to meet the International Reading Association's (IRA) Standards for Reading Professionals (Revised, 2003) at the reading specialist/literacy coach level, and the requirements for Rhode Island certification as reading specialists/consultant. Admission to the program is competitive. All students are expected to complete approximately 34 credits of coursework depending upon experience and transfer credits.

Course of Study

Coursework consists of three strands, Developing Knowledge, Developing Expertise, and Developing Professionalism, which specific courses and outcomes tied to each. The graduate reading program ensures a core base of knowledge upon entrance into the program through pre-program requirements, and an exiting base of knowledge through candidates' successful completion of specific tasks and a written comprehensive examination.

Candidates in the Reading program must adhere to a specific schedule of courses (based on admission date) to ensure that they meet prerequisites for each required course.

Although much of the program's coursework consists of required classes, students can also choose from an array of electives to explore their individual interests in the field. Courses are offered during the summer months as well as the regular school year. Virtually all students take courses on a part-time basis in addition to their full-time duties as classroom teachers.

Goals of the Reading Program:

The graduate program in reading is designed to help teachers acquire knowledge in the multifaceted arenas of literacy research and instruction. It seeks to educate its teachers to think critically about research and practice, to base instructional decisions upon student needs, and to understand student needs through more than one lens. The program promotes a deeply held belief that teaching is reflective. Through reflection on theory, research, and practice, the program seeks to develop competent reading professionals who understand literacy theory and research, how these inform literacy assessment and instruction, and how to use knowledge of theory, research, assessment, and instruction to design appropriate literacy programs for all students. Specific goals are to:

1. encourage reflection on literacy theory, research, and practice.
2. ensure that candidates have both historical and current knowledge of theory, research, and practice in the processes of reading, writing, speaking, and listening (IRA Standard 1).
3. help candidates use their knowledge of literacy and learning processes to develop creative, interactive, balanced literacy instruction across all grade levels and content areas (IRA Standards 2, 4).
4. expand candidates' awareness of each learner as a distinct individual, and help them gain the instructional flexibility to support cognitive, socio-cultural, and linguistic diversity within the classroom and school (IRA Standards 1, 2, 4).
5. foster candidates' ability to assess the literacy needs of all students, to use these assessments to design and provide appropriate instruction for each student, and to interpret and present individual, school, and district-wide assessment data in various professional contexts (IRA Standard 3).
6. guide candidates through experiences that develop expertise in working with colleagues and parents, and collaborating, coaching, and/or supervising teachers and paraprofessionals (all IRA Standards).
7. ensure that candidates gain the knowledge and experience to achieve the Standards for Reading Professionals (2003) as set forth by the International Reading Association.
8. ensure that candidates gain the knowledge and experience to obtain certification as Reading Specialist/Consultant in the State of Rhode Island or similar certification in other states across the country.

[Program Requirements](#)

[Sequence of Course Offerings](#)

[Application Information and Deadlines](#)

[Return to Master of Arts in Education](#)

[Return to Academic Programs](#)

Master's of Arts in Education

Reading Program

Program Requirements:

- 34 credits minimum
- A required core of 12 credits
- Required methods and practica (19 credits)
- Elective (3 credits)

Program Prerequisites: 6 credits

Course	Title	Credit
EDC 424	Teaching Literacy in the Elementary School	3
EDC 448	Literacy Practices for Content Subjects	3

Program Requirements: 31 credits

Strand/ Course	Title	Credit
Developing Knowledge		
EDC529	Foundations of Educational Research	3
EDC/PSY 527	Language Study for Teachers	3
EDC565	Advanced Reading Research Seminar	3
EDC436X OR WRT524	Learning and Teaching Writing K-8 OR Histories and Theories of Writing	3
Developing Expertise		
EDC562	Methods of Intervention for Struggling Readers	3
EDC564	Diagnosis of Literacy Difficulties	4
EDC566	Intervention in Reading and Writing Difficulties (Practicum Fall/Spring- 3 cr. each)	6
Developing Professionalism		
EDC567	Field Experience in Literacy	3
EDC594	Organization and Supervision of Literacy Programs	3

Professional Electives: 3 credits

Course	Title	Credit
EDC 425	Using Trade Books in the Reading and Writing Program	3
EDC 449	Adolescent Literature	3
EDC 528	Teaching Language Arts	3
EDC 563	Teaching Literacy to Multicultural Populations	3
PSY 544	Reading Acquisition and Reading Disability: Research and Implications for Practice	3
EDC/PSY540	Learning Disabilities: Assessment and Intervention	3
CMD564	Language Disorders in School-Aged Children	3

School of Education

Master's of Arts in Education

Reading Program

Application Information & Deadlines

Admission requirements: Candidates will be selected on the basis of three key areas.

- **Knowledge:** All MA applicants must have an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher to apply to the URI Graduate School.
- **Teaching Skills:** Applicants must have initial certification in early childhood, elementary, or secondary education, and some teaching experience to gain admission to the reading program. Applicants should document these by providing:
 - a copy of their RI teaching certificate (or certification from another state).
 - a resume indicating teaching experience.
 - a minimum of two letters or recommendation from personnel **in a supervisory capacity** qualified to comment specifically on professional abilities and strengths (for example, principals, department chairs).
- **Dispositions toward teaching and learning:** Applicants must demonstrate positive dispositions toward continued learning, and toward teaching all students to read and write. Applicants demonstrate dispositions through
 - a personal statement revealing their rationale for applying to the reading program, and a focused goal for obtaining an advanced degree.
 - a formal interview with program faculty.

Applicants should read and be aware of the [Core Beliefs Statement](#) of the School of Education.

Applications for the reading program can be obtained from the URI Graduate School Website.

[Program Requirements](#)

[Sequence of Course Offerings](#)

[Return to Master of Arts in Education](#)

[Return to Academic Programs](#)

Reading Program

Sequence of Course Offerings

	Entering even year	Entering odd year	Entering even year	Entering odd year
SI02	(pre, elec or 529)			
SII02	PSY479			
F02	(elec, WRT524, or 529)			
Sp03	EDC565			
SI03	EDC562	(Pre, elec, or EDC529)		
SII03	EDC564	(479 if not SII even)		
F03	EDC566	(EDC529, elec, or WRT524)		
Sp04	EDC567	(elec or 436)		
SI04	EDC594	EDC594	(pre, elec or 529)	
SII04	(436 or elec)	(479 if not SII odd)	PSY479	
F04	(elec or WRT524)	(EDC529, elec, or WRT524)	(elec, WRT524, or 529)	
Sp05	(436 or elect as needed)	EDC565	EDC565	
SI05		EDC562	EDC562	(Pre, elec, or EDC529)
SII05		EDC564	EDC564	(479 if not SII even)
F05		EDC566	EDC566	(EDC529, elec, or WRT524)
Sp06		EDC567	EDC567	(elec or 436)
SI06			EDC594	EDC594
SII06			(436 or elec)	(479 if not SII odd)
F06			(elec or WRT524)	(EDC529, elec, or WRT524)
Sp07			(436 or elect as needed)	EDC565
SI07				EDC562
SII07				EDC564
F07				EDC566
Sp08				EDC567