



WESTERN
ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY
Quad Cities

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION IN READING

Higher Values in Higher Education
Academic Excellence • Educational Opportunity
Personal Growth • Social Responsibility

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction offers coursework leading to a Master of Science in Education with a major in Reading. This reading specialist program is designed for teachers who wish to increase their knowledge and skills in delivering reading instruction for students in grades K-12 and become leaders in improving reading instruction by providing technical assistance or professional development in their school districts.



Quad Cities Campus

Admission Requirements

Applicants for admission to the Master of Science in Education (MSEd) degree program with a major in Reading must have earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, hold an appropriate teaching certificate, and be accepted by the School of Graduate Studies with a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.75.

Degree Requirements

The MSEd degree in Reading requires a minimum of 33 semester hours (SH) of coursework.

Coursework Requirements for Degree

EIS 500 – Methods of Research (3 SH)

LLA 523 – Advanced Young Adult Literature (3 SH)

RDG 568 – Foundations of Reading in the Middle and Secondary School (3 SH)

RDG 570 – Teaching Reading in the Elementary School (3 SH)

RDG 571 – Assessment of Reading Abilities & Disabilities (3 SH)

RDG 573 – Correction & Remediation of Reading Difficulties (3 SH)

RDG 576 – Psychology of Reading (3 SH)

RDG 587 – Practicum in Reading K-6 (3 SH)

RDG 589 – Practicum in Reading 7-12 (3 SH)

RDG 588 – Leadership in Reading (3 SH)

Reading/Literacy Elective (3 SH): Choose from RDG 508, RDG 553, RDG 569, RDG 580, RDG 584, RDG 586, LA 567, LA 577, LA 578, LLA 443G, LLA 513

Requirements for the Reading Specialist Endorsement in Illinois

- Master's or higher degree
- Two years teaching experience, which can be completed during the program
- Successful completion of the Reading Specialist content test, the Illinois Test of Basic Skills (if not taken during the

completion of initial certification), and the appropriate Assessment of Professional Teaching (APT)

- Completion of an approved reading specialist program

Note: A children's literature class is required for the reading teacher or reading specialist endorsement in Illinois. Most, but not all, teachers have taken it at the undergraduate level. If a children's literature course has not been taken, LLA 513 must be completed. LLA 513 can be used as the program elective.

Requirements for the Reading Specialist Endorsement in Iowa

- Master's or higher degree
- Standard license in Iowa and a teaching endorsement
- At least one year of experience, which included the teaching of reading as a significant part of the responsibility
- Two additional courses are needed beyond those required for the MSEd degree in Reading:
 - (1) A course addressing psychology/human growth and development (EIS 587 or equivalent)
 - (2) A course addressing language learning and reading disabilities (RDG 586 or equivalent)

Note: RDG 586 may be used as the program elective. Earning the Iowa Reading Specialist Endorsement requires the completion of 36 SH.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the program are qualified to serve as reading specialists in their districts.

Faculty Expertise

The faculty members in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction have a strong interest in helping teachers enhance their effectiveness and their ability to promote student learning.

“I am very glad I chose WIU’s Reading Program. The faculty is wonderful, and all of my classes prepared me for teaching reading.”

— Sarah Youngblood

WIU.EDU/CURRICULUM



All faculty have practical experience in public schools. Professors in the department have a doctorate in their field. Faculty are actively involved in a variety of professional organizations; provide continuing education workshops for teachers; and publish books and articles in state, national, and international journals. The *Illinois Reading Council Journal* is housed in our department, and our literacy faculty author the monthly columns for the publication.

Assistantship Opportunities

Graduate assistantships are available for those pursuing an MSEd degree with a major in Reading. This position offers the opportunity for graduate students to provide instructional, research, and clerical support for faculty. A graduate assistant completes at least 9 SH of coursework each semester and works with one or more faculty members for 20 hours each week. Graduate assistants do not pay tuition for these courses and receive a monthly stipend. Assistantships are awarded for a single year but may be renewed for one additional year. Positions are available on both the Macomb and Quad Cities campuses.

Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including, but not limited to, minorities, women, and individuals with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, and veteran status.

Distinctive Features

Teachers completing this program and appropriate coursework are eligible to apply for a Reading Specialist or Reading Teacher Endorsement in Illinois or Iowa. The MSEd degree in Reading

combines the rigor of an outstanding academic program with the personal attention of caring departmental faculty. Courses are offered on the Macomb, Quad Cities, and Springfield campuses. Most courses are offered one evening each week; however, courses are occasionally offered in a six Saturday format. There is one elective in the program, which may be taken online or face-to-face.

The program prepares candidates to not only work with struggling readers in the elementary school, but in middle and high schools as well. In addition to coursework and a practicum focusing on grades K-6, candidates complete a middle/high school reading methods course, a young adult literature course, and a practicum with students in grades 7 through 12.

Featured Alums

I couldn't be happier with the professional relationships, education, and experiences that I gained from Western's Reading Program. After graduation, I felt as though I was completely prepared to enter the workforce as a truly effective Reading Specialist. The educators in the Reading department were absolutely phenomenal. There was no wasted time or busy work; everything we did was purposeful. I wouldn't hesitate to do it all over again.

— Mandy Ricco

I enjoyed the experience. It was very diverse, provided student contact learning, and allowed me the opportunity to do research on areas of learning not usually done.

— David Elmore

Accreditation

The Graduate Reading Program is accredited through the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the International Reading Association. This program has been approved by the Illinois State Board of Education. Western Illinois University's certification officer is authorized to verify coursework for those individuals seeking the Iowa Reading Specialist and Reading Teacher Endorsements.

Contact Information

For admissions process and general program information, contact Admissions, Western Illinois University—Quad Cities, 3561 60th Street, Moline, IL 61265, (309) 762-1495, WIU-QC-Admissions@wiu.edu, wiu.edu/qc.

For specific program questions, contact Dr. Cindy Dooley, Department Chairperson, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-1961, CJ-Dooley@wiu.edu, wiu.edu/curriculum.