

# *University of Delaware*

*School of Education  
M. Ed. In Reading*

## *Program Policy Statement*

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## ***Part I. Program History***

### ***A. Purpose Statement***

The M.Ed. in Reading is designed to prepare previously-certified teachers to advance to positions as Reading Specialists. To do this effectively, they must have firm knowledge of literacy development, a broad familiarity with the range of children's literature and instructional materials used to develop literacy skills and strategies; a deep understanding of assessment as it informs instruction across the developmental span, comprehensive knowledge of current research, and strategies for continuously updating their research knowledge. They must be able to design and implement instruction for emergent readers and writers; they must be able to design and implement word recognition instruction; they must be able to design and implement vocabulary instruction; they must be able to design and implement comprehension strategies instruction; they must be able to design and implement study skills instruction; they must be able to motivate learners to engage in reading and writing; they must be able to use technology to increase student learning. Finally, they must have the dispositions and skills to work as partners with their learners, with families, and with teachers.

### ***B. Origin of the Program***

The M.Ed. in Reading is a revision of two previously existing specializations within two degree programs in the School of Education: the Master of Instruction (designed to support classroom teachers who want to develop their expertise but remain in the classroom), and the M.Ed. with a specialization in Literacy and Schooling. Both of these specializations served candidates who eventually expressed a desire for certification as Reading Specialists, but neither was specifically designed with that goal in mind.

The M.Ed. in Reading replaced the M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction/Literacy and Schooling specialization, and the title of the major was changed to "Reading" in 2004. Those students whose seek to improve their classroom instruction will be served in the M.I. program as before; those students whose seek to become Reading Specialists will be served in the M.Ed. in Reading.

The M.Ed. in Reading was reviewed by the International Reading Association for its attention to current standards in the training of Reading Specialists. In October, 2003, the program design was nationally recognized by the International Reading Association. Additionally, the Delaware Department of Education reviewed the program design and granted approval of the design as an approved program in the state certification process for Reading Specialists.

### ***C. Administration and Faculty***

The Committee on Graduate Studies in Education (CGSE) is the SOE-level committee that administers all the graduate programs, including the M. Ed. in Reading. The committee is composed of five faculty members from the School of Education, a graduate student member selected by the Education Graduate Association, and the Assistant Director of the School of Education who serves as the Graduate Coordinator for the School of Education.

The SOE is committed to the recruitment, support, and retention of full-time, tenure-line faculty members in literacy. Faculty members who teach graduate courses and advise graduate students in the School of Education must have a doctorate or equivalent. In some instances, faculty members with a master's degree and special expertise in an area of Education as a result of concentrated study, employment experience, or service may be recommended for graduate teaching. In such cases, the faculty member must have a record of successful teaching in a specialized area of Education, proven scholarly ability, and the endorsement of the literacy faculty and the Director of the School of Education.

Faculty members in literacy review candidates for admission to the M.Ed. in Reading, serve as advisors to candidates admitted to the program, teach courses, and evaluate candidates' exhibits and exam responses.

## *D. Degrees Offered*

The degree awarded to candidates who complete this program will be a M.Ed. in Reading. Most graduates will earn this degree and then seek state Department of Education certification as Reading Specialists.

## *Part II. Admission*

### *A. University Policy on Admission*

Admission to the graduate program is competitive. Those who meet stated minimum requirements are not guaranteed admission, nor are those who fail to meet all of those requirements necessarily precluded from admission if they offer other appropriate strengths.

### *B. University Admission Procedures*

Applicants must submit all of the following items to the Office of Graduate Studies before admission can be considered:

**This program admits students once a year for Fall Semester admission. Completed applications are due by March 1. Admission applications may be found online at <http://www.udel.edu/admissions/appinfo.html>.**

A \$60 nonrefundable application fee must be submitted with the application. Checks must be made payable to the University of Delaware. Applications received without the application fee will not be processed. Foreign students may utilize either a check or an International Postal Money Order to remit payment in U.S. currency.

An official transcript of all previous college records must be sent directly from the institution to the Office of Graduate Studies. Students who have attended the University of Delaware need not supply a transcript from Delaware. Transcripts issued in a language other than English must be accompanied by an official translation into English. If the rank of the student is not displayed on the transcript or diploma, an official letter of explanation and ranking from the institution where the degree was earned is required.

Applicants must submit at least three letters of recommendation. Letters should be from professors who can attest to the candidate's suitability for graduate study and supervisors who can comment on the candidate's professional commitment and experience. Letters from family, friends, and professional peers are strongly discouraged.

International student applicants must demonstrate a satisfactory level of proficiency in the English language if English is not their first language. The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is offered by the Educational Testing Service in test centers throughout the world. TOEFL scores more than two years old cannot be validated or considered official. International students must be offered admission to the University and provide evidence of adequate financial resources before a student visa will be issued. The University has been authorized under federal law to enroll nonimmigrant alien students. International students are required to purchase the University-sponsored insurance plan or its equivalent.

It is a Delaware State Board of Health Regulation and a University of Delaware mandate that all entering graduate students born after January 1, 1957 give proof of proper immunization for measles, mumps, and rubella. If immunization requirements are not met, the student will not be eligible to register. Specific information may be obtained from the Student Health Service (302) 831-2226.

### *C. Specific Requirements for Admission into the M.Ed. in Reading*

Admission decisions are made by the full-time faculty in literacy. Students will be admitted to the program based upon enrollment availability and their ability to meet the following minimum recommended entrance requirements. This program is designed to serve current teachers who wish to enroll in this graduate program on a part-time basis.

to seek certification as a Reading Specialist. Because many of the courses are offered in the summer, it would be difficult for a student to enroll in the program on a full-time basis.

- Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.
- Transcripts showing an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher. Applicants with lower than expected performance are not automatically disqualified, but should provide an explanation for their prior performance and describe the experiences, skills, and dispositions they believe indicate the ability to succeed at the graduate level.
- Transcripts showing a minimum GPA of 3.0 for all graduate courses completed (if applicable). This GPA applies to graduate level courses taken through continuing education or graduate programs at the University of Delaware and other institutions.
- Three letters of recommendation from individuals who are able to assess the applicant's academic potential. Letters should be from professors who can attest to the candidate's suitability for graduate study and supervisors who can comment on the candidate's professional commitment and experience. Letters from family, friends, and professional peers are strongly discouraged.
- For students whose native language is not English, an officially reported minimum TOEFL score of 600 (paper-based test) or 250 (computer-based test).
- A written statement of goals and objectives. This three-question essay response is part of the standard Graduate Studies application and should (a) clearly describe why the applicant wishes to pursue a MED in Reading and Reading Specialist certification and (b) indicate and explain any areas of special interest.
- Writing sample on an important topic in the field of reading education. This essay is in addition to Statement of Goals and Objectives outlined above. The applicant should address one of the following topics in a brief essay of 500 words or less: a) Describe an issue in literacy education which you would like to learn more about in your coursework; OR b) Describe an experience in your own life that influenced your decision to become a Reading Specialist. Alternatively, the applicant may submit a brief paper that was submitted in a recent education course
- Demonstrated knowledge of the teaching of oral language, reading, and writing through previous coursework and teaching.

Preference in admission is given to individuals with initial teaching certification and classroom teaching experience. This program is not designed as an alternative route to initial certification. Individuals without initial certification may be admitted into the program in some circumstances, but only with the understanding that they cannot be certified as part of the program and that the state of Delaware requires both certification and three years of classroom teaching experience in addition to the M.Ed. for those seeking certification as Reading Specialists.

#### *D. Admission Status*

**Regular admission may be offered to students who meet all of the established entrance requirements and who have the ability, interest, and commitment necessary for successful study at the graduate level in a degree program. Admission to the graduate programs at the University of Delaware is selective and competitive based on the number of well-qualified applicants and the limits of available faculty and facilities. Those who meet stated minimum academic requirements are not guaranteed admission. This program receives more applicants than can be considered for admission.**

**This program does not offer provisional admission.**

### *Part III. Degree Requirements for the Master of Education in Reading*

#### *A. Course Requirements*

**The M.Ed. in Reading requires 33 credits of graduate-level coursework. There are no electives. The required coursework includes:**

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|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>EDUC601</b>                     | <b>Language Development in the Classroom (3 credits)</b>                                      |
| <b>EDUC 602</b><br><b>EDUC 603</b> | <b>Childhood Literature (3 credits) OR</b><br><b>Adolescent Literature (3 credits)</b>        |
| <b>EDUC 604</b>                    | <b>Teaching Writing in the Elementary and Middle School (3 credits)</b>                       |
| <b>EDUC 608</b>                    | <b>Literacy Assessment and Instruction I (3 credits)</b>                                      |
| <b>EDUC 609</b>                    | <b>Literacy Assessment and Instruction II (3 credits)</b>                                     |
| <b>EDUC 622</b>                    | <b>The Role of Literacy in Content Areas (3 credits)</b>                                      |
| <b>EDUC 630</b>                    | <b>Supervised Reading Clinic (6 credits)</b>  |
| <b>EDUC 631</b>                    | <b>Organization and Supervision of Literacy Programs (3 credits)</b>                          |
| <b>EDUC 649</b><br><b>EDUC 617</b> | <b>Delaware Writing Project (6 credits) OR</b><br><b>Delaware Reading Project (6 credits)</b> |

***B. Non-Registered Degree Requirements***

Examination: Prior to exit from the program, all candidates are required to pass the Praxis II.

***Part V. General Information***

***A. Financial Assistance***

Financial assistance for full-time students in the M.Ed. program is obtained from a variety of external sources and will therefore vary in form and availability. Assistance will be awarded on a competitive basis to applicants best fitting the needs of the granting agencies and sponsoring faculty. Students receiving full stipends will be expected to work up to 20 hours per week on faculty projects and students are expected to maintain full-time status.

***B. Application for Advanced Degree.***

To initiate the process for degree conferral, candidates must submit an "Application for Advanced Degree" to the Office of Graduate Studies. The application deadlines are February 15 for Spring candidates, May 15 for Summer candidates, and September 15 for Winter candidates. The application must be signed by the candidate's adviser and by the Director or the Assistant Director of the School of Education. There is an application fee of \$50 for master's degree candidates and a \$95 fee for doctoral degree candidates. Payment is required when the application is submitted.

***C. Graduate Grade Point Average.***

Students must have a minimum overall cumulative grade point average of 3.0 to be eligible for the degree. In addition, the grades in courses applied toward the degree program must equal at least 3.0. All graduate-numbered courses taken with graduate student classification at the University of Delaware are applied to the cumulative index. Credit hours and courses for which the grade is below "C-" do not count toward the degree even though the grade is applied to the overall index. Candidates should see that their instructors have submitted all final grades.

***D. Time Limits for the Completion of Degree Requirements.***

Time limits for the completion of degree requirements begin with the date of matriculation and are specifically expressed in the student's letter of admission. The University policy for students entering a master's degree program is ten consecutive semesters to complete the degree requirements. Students who change their degree plan and have transferred from one degree program to another degree program are given ten consecutive semesters from the beginning of the first year in the latest program.

***E. Extension of the Time Limit.***

An extension of time limit may be granted for circumstances beyond the student's control. Requests for time extensions must be made in writing and approved by the student's adviser and the Director or Assistant Director of the School of Education. The Director/Assistant Director will forward the request to the Office of Graduate Studies. The Office of Graduate Studies will determine the student's eligibility for a time extension and will notify the student in writing of its decision to grant an extension of time.

***F. Transfer of Credit Earned as a Continuing Education Student at the University of Delaware.***

Students who complete graduate credits with the classification of CEND (Continuing Education Nondegree) at the University of Delaware may use a maximum of 9 graduate credits earned with this classification toward their graduate degree. The CEND credits, grades, and quality points become a part of the student's academic record and grade point average. CEND credit can be transferred provided that: (a) the course was at the 600 or 800 level, (b) the course was taken within the time limit appropriate for the degree, (c) the course was approved by the student's adviser and the Director/Assistant Director of the School of Education, and (d) the course was in accord with the requirements for the degree.

***G. Transfer of Credit from Another Institution.***

Graduate credit earned at another institution will be evaluated at the written request of the student. Such a request should be submitted first to his or her advisor using a Request for Transfer of Graduate Credit form. A maximum of 9 credits required for the degree will be accepted provided that such credits: (a) were earned with a grade of no less than B-, (b) are approved by the student's adviser and the Director/Assistant Director of the School of Education, (c) are in accord with the requirements of the degree, (d) are not older than five years, and (e) were completed at an accredited college or university. The credits, but not the grades or quality points, are transferable to University of Delaware graduate records. Graduate courses counted toward a degree received elsewhere may not be used. Credits earned at another institution while the student was classified as a continuing education student at that institution are not eligible to be transferred to one's graduate degree at the University of Delaware. Credits from institutions outside of the United States are generally not transferable to the University of Delaware.

***H. Transfer of Credit from the Undergraduate Division at the University of Delaware.***

Students who wish to transfer credits from their undergraduate record to their graduate record may transfer a limited number by arranging with the department to have these courses approved by their instructors before the courses are taken. These courses must be at the 600-level, and the student must perform at the graduate level. They must be in excess of the total required for the baccalaureate degree, must have grades of no less than B-, and must not be older than five years. The credits, grades, and quality points will transfer.