AIM Pathways to Structured Literacy
Course Syllabus

AIM PATHWAYS

AIM Pathways is an interactive, digital, professional development platform designed to strengthen educators’ knowledge and skills in the science of literacy instruction. Course content is aligned to the International Dyslexia Association’s Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading. Online coursework is accessible at your convenience—24 hours a day, 7 days a week, anywhere there is an internet connection. In order to translate theoretical models into classroom practice, AIM Pathways courses are designed to follow a Learn, Practice, and Apply cycle:

● Learn – Participants acquire knowledge by interacting with video lectures, articles, animated videos, and more.
● Practice – Participants practice newly acquired knowledge through card-sorting exercises, quizzes, and surveys.
● Apply – Participants apply their understanding of the content to real-life simulations and case studies. These in-depth, multi-step scenarios give educational leaders a chance to hone their diagnostic and prescriptive decision-making skills for instructional programming.

The AIM Pathways course platform also includes a variety of downloadable and printable resources for educators to use in classroom planning and instruction, including student checklists and rubrics, systematic scope-and-sequences, instructional scripts, student manipulatives, sample lesson plans, differentiation and intervention tools, and more. These valuable resources are readily accessible to participants and easily searchable on all digital devices.

PATHWAYS STRUCTURED LITERACY COURSE

Pathways to Structured Literacy is designed for educators who have successfully completed the Pathways to Proficient Reading course. Building on the knowledge developed in that prerequisite course, this coursework continues to strengthen educators' ability to translate theoretical models of reading into evidence-based instructional practices that support students' word recognition skill development. The content of the course is Orton-Gillingham based and aligned to the International Dyslexia Association’s (IDA) Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading (KPS). Completion of the online Pathways to Structured Literacy course is estimated to take approximately 30 hours, depending on the participant’s background knowledge in Structured Literacy.

Participants will learn how to deliver diagnostic, prescriptive literacy instruction that makes effective use of student assessment data in foundational reading and spelling skills. Using the results of these assessments, participants will learn how to create explicit, systematic lessons that simultaneously engage students’ auditory, visual, and tactile-kinesthetic learning pathways and guide students to discover the patterns that govern written English. These research-based
Instructional approaches are appropriate for general education teachers and specialists who want to learn how to provide targeted or intensive reading interventions to students of all ages.

Participants enrolling in the Pathways to Structured Literacy course have two options for course completion: online coursework and virtual community-of-practice meetings with or without the Structured Literacy Practicum. Upon completion of the optional Structured Literacy Practicum, participants will be eligible to sit for the Center for Effective Reading Instruction's Knowledge and Practice Examination for Effective Reading Instruction (KPEERI) exam which can lead to certification as a Certified Structured Literacy Teacher.

**COURSE INTRODUCTION & PRE-COURSE KNOWLEDGE INVENTORY**

Participants will log into the AIM Pathways platform at aimpathwaysonline.org. The introductory section of Pathways to Structured Literacy will 1) introduce participants to the digital course and 2) give participants the opportunity to complete a pre-course knowledge inventory to establish a baseline of current content knowledge. When participants take the knowledge inventory, they should refrain from consulting any resources. The score is confidential and is intended to provide one means of monitoring the knowledge gained from taking the course.

**COURSE GRADEBOOK**

The Pathways to Structured Literacy course has a gradebook where participants can view their scores on graded assessments, including end-of-section quizzes and file submission assignments. Grades are displayed as percentages rounded to a whole number. The gradebook will show scores for each attempt at a graded quiz, as well as section grades and the overall course grade. All graded quizzes in each section are averaged together to calculate the section grade. The overall course grade is an average of the participant's section grades for all of the sections they have completed so far. The final course grade is the average of all section grades.

Participants can improve their grade by retaking any graded quiz; each quiz may be taken a maximum of two times. The highest score of the two attempts will be averaged into the overall grade for that section. Prior to the second quiz attempt, the system will prompt the participant to review the recommended materials associated with the missed question(s). Participants may wish to hold off on taking a quiz for a second time until after the community-of-practice meeting or office hours so that they have an opportunity to clarify any misconceptions before their final attempt at a quiz.

**VIRTUAL COMMUNITY-OF-PRACTICE MEETINGS**

The 9-section Pathways to Structured Literacy course is accompanied by a series of four 1-hour synchronous, virtual community-of-practice meetings focused on implementation. An AIM Pathways Facilitator supports the community with translating the course content knowledge into evidence-based instructional practices. Participants will be provided a customized pacing guide for completing the course sections and attending the community-of-practice meetings.

Participants who choose to enroll in the Structured Literacy Practicum will have 8 to 10 additional coaching conferences with the Practicum Supervisor to ensure
fidelity of implementation.

**COURSE CONCLUSION & POST-COURSE KNOWLEDGE INVENTORY**

Upon completion of *Pathways to Structured Literacy*, participants will take a second knowledge inventory in order to assess their mastery of the content and their knowledge gains from the pre-course baseline assessment. This inventory is completed independently within the concluding section of the digital course. Participants are encouraged to use their note-taking guides during the post-course knowledge inventory, which is designed to take approximately 60 minutes. Participants are allowed to use as much time as they need, although it must be taken in one single sitting.

**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION**

Once a participant completes all sections of the course with an overall grade of at least 60%, the Course Record page (accessible via the Participant Dashboard) will display a certificate of completion. The certificate will indicate proficiency from 60%-79%, and high-proficiency for 80% or higher. If, after completing the course, you retake any graded quizzes and score higher on your second attempt than your first, the system will immediately update your overall course grade and certificate of completion. You must review recommended materials prior to taking your second and final attempt on a graded quiz, and you are encouraged to ask your facilitator any outstanding questions at community-of-practice meetings and weekly office hours.

Successful completion of the *Pathways to Structured Literacy* course with the *Structured Literacy Practicum* requires satisfactory completion of the:

- requirements for the online course work and virtual community-of-practice meetings
- practicum requirements
- practicum assessment
- knowledge inventory

**CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS**

AIM Institute for Learning and Research is an approved provider of continuing education units in a growing list of states (please see our website for an up-to-date list). Educators in those states who are interested in receiving credit for *Pathways to Structured Literacy* will be provided instructions for applying upon completion of the course. The course alone counts for 30 hours and the Structured Literacy practicum counts for 60 additional hours.

**GRADUATE CREDITS**

AIM Institute for Learning and Research has partnered with Arcadia University to offer three graduate credits for the *Pathways to Structured Literacy* online course. Participants who choose to earn graduate credits will be able to register directly with Arcadia University 15 to 30 days prior to the cohort's term-end date. The enrollment process and per-credit costs are outlined at Arcadia's School of Education website (https://www.arcadia.edu/school-education/community-and-partners).
AIM assigns a grade upon completion of the course according to Arcadia University’s Graduate Academic Policies. If you are taking *Pathways to Structured Literacy* for graduate credit, the grade on your official transcript is comprised of the following components:

- 70% - course grade in the AIM Pathways platform
- 15% - participation in community of practice meetings
- 15% - score on post-course knowledge inventory

Please check with your degree university or school district for their policy on grade requirements for transfer of credit.

**PATHWAYS TO STRUCTURED LITERACY COURSE OUTLINE**

- **Pre-Course Knowledge Inventory**
- **Section 1 – Understanding Reading Development**
  - Lesson 1: Reading and the Brain
  - Lesson 2: Characteristics of Skilled Reading and Reading Difficulties
    - Topic 1: Skilled Reading
    - Topic 2: Reading Difficulties
  - Lesson 3: Phases of Typical Reading Development
- **Section 2 - An Overview of Structured Literacy**
  - Lesson 1: The Principles of Effective Literacy Instruction
  - Lesson 2: Introduction to the Structured Literacy Lesson
  - Lesson 3: The Importance of Diagnostic, Prescriptive Instruction
- **Virtual Community-of-Practice Meeting #1**
- **Section 3 - Understanding Pre- and Emergent Literacy Skills**
  - Lesson 1: Early Language Development and Phonological Processing
  - Lesson 2: Teaching About Speech Sounds
  - Lesson 3: Teaching Print Concepts, Alphabet Knowledge, and the Alphabetic Principle
  - Lesson 4: Assessing Emerging Literacy Skills
- **Section 4 - Teaching Phoneme-Grapheme Correspondences**
  - Lesson 1: Phoneme-Grapheme Correspondences
- **Section 5 - Teaching Syllables and Syllable Division Patterns**
  - Lesson 1: Syllable Types
  - Lesson 2: Syllable Division Patterns
Virtual Community-of-Practice Meeting #2 & Optional Practicum Begins

Section 6 - The Structured Literacy Lesson Plan - Components for Review
- Lesson 1: Part 1 Symbol-to-Sound Correspondence (Decoding)
- Lesson 2: Part 2 Sound-to-Symbol Correspondence (Oral and Written Spelling)

Section 7 - The Structured Literacy Lesson Plan - Components for New Learning & Application
- Lesson 3: Part 3 New Learning (Explicit Instruction through Guided Discovery)
- Lesson 4: Part 4 Oral Reading of Connected Text

Virtual Community-of-Practice Meeting #3

Section 8 - Teaching Reading and Spelling Generalizations
- Lesson 1: Reading and Spelling Generalizations

Section 9 - Teaching Morphology
- Lesson 1: Morphology

Virtual Community-of-Practice Meeting #4

Post-Course Knowledge Inventory

STRUCTURED LITERACY PRACTICUM REQUIREMENTS

The practicum will begin after the participant finishes the content in Section 5. Participants will continue working with their virtual community-of-practice facilitator for the remaining sections, but during Section 6, a practicum supervisor will begin to work with the participants to help support them as they work to complete the practicum requirements. To ensure that each participant receives the individualized coaching needed to be a successful Structured Literacy instructor, enrollment in the practicum will be limited.

Participants who choose to enroll in Structured Literacy Practicum will have the opportunity to work with a student or small group of students to practice applying the research and evidence-based instructional practices while working under the guidance of a certified trainer. The practicum provides additional opportunities for the participants to develop their skills.

These opportunities include:

Practicum Coursework
- Orientation
- Pathways to Structured Literacy coursework
• Pre- and post-knowledge inventories
• Additional readings and participation on discussion boards
• Practicum assessment

**Practicum Instruction with Student**

• 1 Student (maximum of 1 student change due to attrition); Small groups will be considered with permission from the Practicum Supervisor
• Minimum of two sessions per week
• Minimum of 50 student intervention sessions
• Minimum of 14 weeks of student contact
• Minimum of 45 minutes per intervention session
• Pre- and post-assessment sessions
• 5 Formal observations (Candidates must have 3 formal observations that meet the proficiency requirements.)
• Submission of lesson plans and student work

**Practicum Work with Supervisor**

• 8-10 sessions of 30-minute implementation meetings with practicum supervisor to ensure fidelity of implementation
• Required & optional consultative session during established office hours
• Lesson implementation video submissions & establishing instructional goals
• Meet the requirements established on the IDA Summative Practicum Evaluation Rubric
• Maintain a digital practicum portfolio

**PART A: Pre-Instruction**

• Student demographics
• Record review
• Pre-assessment - results to guide instruction
• Instructional goals – developed in response to pre-assessment and record review
• Proposed scope and sequence of instruction with rationale
• Proposed progress monitoring plan (measures, frequency, decision rules)

**Part B: During Instruction**

• Lesson plans with student work and participant reflections
• Formal lesson observations completed by Practicum Supervisor with participant reflection/response
• Completed IDA Summative Practicum Evaluation Rubric

**Part C: Post-Instruction**

• Post-assessment results
Successful completion of the Structured Literacy Practicum requires satisfactory completion of the online coursework, the virtual community-of-practice sessions, and the practicum. Depending on the participant's background knowledge in Structured Literacy, completion of the online Pathways to Structured Literacy coursework is estimated to take approximately 25 hours and the Structured Literacy Practicum requires an additional 60 hours. Ensuring that participants demonstrate the required competency at the end of the practicum will be a priority and the Practicum Supervisor may extend the practicum if necessary.

Practicum Supervisor: Helen Mannion  HMannion@AIMPA.org
Practicum Enrollment Cap: 25 participants
Course Pacing Guide: To be provided

ASSIGNED READINGS

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<tr>
<th>Course Section</th>
<th>Assigned Readings</th>
<th>IDA KPS*</th>
<th>How Facilitator Monitors Participant’s Understanding</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>teaching phoneme-grapheme correspondences</td>
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<td>Card sort with corrective feedback on symbol-to-sound correspondences, application of symbol-to-sound knowledge in student snapshot responses, card sort with corrective feedback on sound-to-symbol correspondences, application of sound-to-symbol knowledge in student snapshot responses, quiz on the structured literacy lesson plan, facilitated discussion during virtual community-of-practice session, application of symbol-to-sound correspondences knowledge and sound-to-symbol instructional knowledge in creating, delivering, and submitting a lesson plan</td>
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<td>Facilitated discussion during virtual community-of-practice session, quiz on morphology</td>
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**Practicum Readings**


1, 2, 4

Facilitated discussion during practicum implementation meetings, guided discussion board responses to prompts and peers

A full citation and reference list is available upon request.

The Pathways to Structured Literacy and the Structured Literacy Practicum courses on the AIM Pathways platform are aligned with The International Dyslexia Association’s (IDA) Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading*.

**IDA KPS Statement:** The International Dyslexia Association’s (IDA) Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading Coursework is aligned with IDA’s Knowledge and Practice Standards (KPS) for Teachers of Reading. The KPS outline the knowledge and skill that all teachers of reading should possess. Standard 1 addresses foundational concepts, derived from interdisciplinary research, about reading development and reading difficulties. Standard 2 covers knowledge of diverse reading profiles, including dyslexia. Standard 3 pertains to knowledge of assessment. Standard 4 addresses Structured LiteracyTM teaching, offering detailed guidance with regard to the nature of effective instruction in each major domain (phonological sensitivity and phoneme awareness; phonics and word recognition; reading fluency; vocabulary; listening and reading comprehension; and written expression). Standard 4 also offers guidance regarding expectations for teachers engaged in field work or practicum (e.g., in interpretation of assessments, planning differentiated instruction, lesson design, corrective feedback, and so forth). Standard 5 delineates ethical
standards for the profession. The content of the Pathways to Structured Literacy course is aligned to these Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading (KPS).