

# Reading Specialist

## Master of Education & Graduate Certificate Options



### WHAT YOU'LL STUDY

- Literacy teaching methods and theory grounded in scientifically-based research
- K-12 literacy development including how to assess and develop targeted instruction to improve the literacy outcomes of all students
- Literacy leadership skills

### FORMAT

- You can complete a Graduate Certificate for 21 credits in as few as 4 semesters or a Master of Education for 30 credits in as few as 6 semesters.
- Courses are regularly offered in a hybrid format on Mason's campuses as well as fully online, providing the flexibility you need.
- Our cohort format allows you to build strong professional relationships as you progress through your program with other educators.

### WHERE THIS DEGREE WILL TAKE YOU

- The literacy coursework, included in all degree paths, is a state-approved program providing eligibility for the **Virginia Reading Specialist Endorsement** for currently licensed teachers meeting all state requirements.
- Our degree paths are designed to fill your skill set with scientifically-based teaching and literacy leadership techniques.
- Upon program completion, you can become a **reading specialist** in any K-12 setting, providing specialized instruction for the K-12 students who need it the most while also supporting other teachers' professional learning.
- Graduates may also serve as **reading teachers, interventionists, literacy or instructional coaches, private literacy tutors, or professional development providers** in literacy.
- Graduates with degrees in this area may be eligible for pay raises and advancement opportunities within their schools and district offices.

## PROGRAM OPTIONS

## Literacy Coursework (21 credits)

**Semester 1**

- **EDRD 640** Trajectory of Literacy Research (2 credits)
- **EDRD 642** Foundations of Literacy Instruction: Code-Based Skills (3 credits)

**Semester 2**

- **EDRD 641** Trends and Issues in Literacy (2 credits)
- **EDRD 643** Foundations of Literacy Instruction: Meaning-Based Skills (3 credits)

**Semester 3**

- **EDRD 644** Literacy Assessment and Intervention (3 credits)
- **EDRD 645** Supervised Literacy Practicum (3 credits)

**Semester 4**

- **EDRD 646** School-Based Leadership in Literacy (3 credits)
- **EDRD 647** Introduction to Literacy Coaching (2 credits)

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**Reading/Literacy Instruction  
Graduate Certificate  
Reading Specialist K-12**  
(21 credits)

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**Electives (9 credits)**  
Focused on Literacy or Diverse Learners

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**Curriculum & Instruction MEd  
Literacy Leadership for  
Diverse Schools (30 credits)**

## ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- Completion of a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education or international equivalent for admission to a Master of Education program, or completion of a master's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education or international equivalent for admission to the Graduate Certificate program.
- One year of teaching experience
- Professional resumé or CV
- Goals statement: 750-1000 words, describing your academic and career goals related to the intended program
- Transcripts: unofficial transcripts for application review, and official documents for any international credentials
- Two letters of recommendation: professional or academic in nature
- International students may have to meet additional requirements, visit [go.gmu.edu/GradFAQ](http://go.gmu.edu/GradFAQ) for details

## CONTACT INFORMATION

College of Education and  
Human Development

Office of Admissions

Thompson Hall, Suite 1700  
4400 University Drive, MS 4D1  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

[cehdoaa@gmu.edu](mailto:cehdoaa@gmu.edu)

703-993-2892

## FUNDING OPTIONS

15 percent discount for qualified Virginia educators

Approximately 40 percent tuition discount for out-of-state graduate students

For full details and limitations, visit [cehd.gmu.edu/discounts](http://cehd.gmu.edu/discounts)

## Licensure information

Mason will verify completion of the requirements of a Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) state-approved preparation program at the graduate or undergraduate level. Such verification does not guarantee the issuance of a Virginia Collegiate Professional, Postgraduate Professional, or Pupil Personnel license from the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is solely the student's responsibility to comply with all requirements for licensure by the commonwealth. Under Virginia law, a social security number is required for licensure.