

**DEPARTMENT OF LITERACY**

**College of Education and Social Work**

108 Recitation Hall  
West Chester University  
West Chester, PA 19383  
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Department of Literacy (http://www.wcupa.edu/literacy)  
Dr. Smith (csmith3@wcupa.edu), Chairperson  
Dr. Flanigan (kflanigan@wcupa.edu), Graduate Coordinator

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**Programs of Study**

The Department of Literacy offers the master of education degree with a major in reading and reading specialist certification. Students who complete this program are recommended for Pennsylvania certification as a reading specialist. This program prepares candidates to serve in reading specialist positions and as classroom teachers of reading in elementary or secondary schools.

In 1997, the Pennsylvania State Board of Education implemented revisions to the Pennsylvania School Code. These revisions require all students who apply for Pennsylvania reading specialist certificates to pass competency tests.

As changes are made in requirements for reading specialist certification, it is the student's responsibility to satisfy the new requirements.

The department also offers a Certificate in Literacy (18 credits), Reading Specialist Certification (without M.Ed. in Reading; 30 credits), and an Endorsement in Literacy Coaching (12 credits).

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**Programs**

**Master's Programs in Literacy**

- M.Ed. in Reading (leads to a PA K-12 Reading Specialist Certification) (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/education-social-work/literacy/reading-med)

**Certificates in Literacy**

- Literacy (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/education-social-work/literacy/literacy-certificate)  
  - Important information about the educational debt, earnings, and completion rates of students who attended this program: Certificate in Literacy (https://wcupa.edu/_services/fin_aid/gainfulEmployment/Literacy/gedt.html)  
  - K-12 Reading Specialist Certification (without M.Ed.) (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/education-social-work/literacy/reading-specialist-cert)

**Endorsements in Literacy**

- Literacy Coaching (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/education-social-work/literacy/literacy-coaching-endorsement)

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**Admissions**

All applicants to one of West Chester University's graduate programs will be held to the graduate admissions requirements (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate-academic-policies-procedures). When applicable, additional policies for specific department programs may be listed below.

**Admissions Requirements for the M.Ed. in Reading**

Applicants are expected to have an undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university. In addition, they must meet an undergraduate grade point average (GPA) entry requirement of 3.0 on a scale of 4.0 calculated on the last 48 credits earned. The total cumulative undergraduate GPA must be at least 3.0. Students who cannot meet this requirement must take either the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) or the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). A satisfactory score as determined by the department on the GRE or MAT will demonstrate a student's academic competence in lieu of the required GPA.

Applicants must possess initial teaching certification.

Applicants must submit two letters of professional recommendation.

**Formal Admission to Reading Specialist Certification Program**

1. Students must meet the above program entry requirements.
2. Students must file a form in the Certification Office listing required courses for certification.

**Admission Requirements for the Literacy Coaching Endorsement**

Admission requirements include an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or above, two letters of recommendation, Instructional I Certificate, reading specialist certification, and a minimum of three years' successful teaching experience. Graduate level transcript required showing completion of graduate level courses in the following areas: Orthography, Comprehension and Vocabulary, Writing Development, Reading in the Content Areas, Children's Literature, Problems in Literacy Development, Literacy Practicum/Seminar, Diversity, Organization and Supervision of Reading Programs.

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**Policies**

All graduate students are held to the academic policies and procedures (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate-academic-policies-procedures) outlined in the graduate catalog. Students are encouraged to review departmental handbooks for program tips, suggested course sequences, and explanations of procedures. When applicable, additional policies for specific department programs may be listed below.

**Precandidacy Requirements**

*For M.Ed. Candidates Only*

1. Students must apply for candidacy after the completion of 15 credits.
2. Courses required within the precandidacy period include EDR 505, EDR 507, EDR 509, EDR 514, and one additional course from the prescribed program.
3. Students must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 during the precandidacy period.

**Degree Requirements for the Combined M.Ed. in Reading and Reading Specialist Certification**

In addition to meeting degree requirements of the University, the candidate must:

1. Successfully complete 30 credits in literacy and six additional credits in professional education. Workshops will not be accepted to satisfy this requirement.
2. Achieve an overall GPA of at least 3.0.
3. The student must successfully submit a theoretical foundations portfolio.

Students are responsible for meeting all requirements within the specified time.

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**Theoretical Foundations Portfolio Policy for the M.Ed. in Reading**

Students are required to complete a Theoretical Foundations portfolio as part of their successful completion of the degree program. Students are eligible to submit their Theoretical Foundations Portfolio after they have completed EDR 505, EDR 507, EDR 509, EDR 516, EDR 519, and either EDR 512 or EDR 532 and after they have attended a portfolio peer review workshop. Portfolio submissions are
due at the end of the first week of February and end of the first week of October. Request for approval of the portfolio submission must be made in writing to the graduate coordinator by December 1 for the February submission date and by July 1 for the October submission date. Candidates whose portfolios receive a failing evaluation are permitted one re-submission within a two-year period. Candidates whose re-submitted portfolios receive a failing evaluation are dropped from the degree program.

Requirements for the Reading Specialist Certification-Only Program

1. The student must possess an Instructional I Certificate.
2. The student must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0.
3. In order to obtain the certificate, the student must successfully complete the curriculum listed and meet any additional state requirements.
4. The student must successfully submit a theoretical foundations portfolio.
5. The student must attempt the state designated advanced licensure exam (e.g. Praxis II) prior to program completion.

Faculty

Professors
Dena G. Beeghly (dbeeghly@wcupa.edu) (1992)  
B.S., Southern Connecticut State University; M.Ed., Ed.D., University of Georgia  
Kevin Flanigan (kflanigan@wcupa.edu) (2003)  
Graduate Coordinator, Literacy  
B.A., Mary Washington College; M.Ed., James Madison University;  
M.Ed., Ph.D., University of Virginia

Associate Professors
Sunita Mayor (smayor@wcupa.edu) (2000)  
B.A., University of Calcutta; B.Ed., University of Rohtak; M.Ed.,  
Xavier University; Ed.D., University of Cincinnati  
Diane Santori (dsantori@wcupa.edu) (2008)  
B.S., Temple University; M.S., St. Joseph's University; Ed.D.,  
University of Pennsylvania  
Heather Schugar (hschugar@wcupa.edu) (2008)  
B.S., M.Ed., Ph.D., University of Maryland  
Tina Selvaggi (tselvaggi@wcupa.edu) (2012)  
B.A., M.S., St. Joseph's University; Ed.D., Widener University  
Carol A. Smith (csmith3@wcupa.edu) (2008)  
Chairperson, Literacy  
B.A., Rowan University of New Jersey; M.Ed., Ed.D., Widener  
University

Assistant Professors
Melissa E. Adams-Budde (madams@wcupa.edu) (2014)  
B.A., University of Maryland, College Park; M.S., Johns Hopkins University; Ph.D., University of North Carolina  
Sarah Lightner (sightner@wcupa.edu) (2017)  
B.S., Pennsylvania State University; M.A., University of Pittsburgh;  
Ph.D., Ohio State University  
Jennifer Raskauskas (jraskausk@wcupa.edu) (2017)  
B.S., B.A., Bucknell University; M.A., Columbia University Teachers College; Ph.D., University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  
Kathleen Riley (kriley@wcupa.edu) (2013)  
B.A., Colby College; M.A., American University; Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania

Kathryn Solic (ksolic@wcupa.edu) (2013)  
B.A., University of Notre Dame; M.Ed., University of Florida; Ph.D., University of Tennessee

Courses

EDR

EDR 503. Language Arts Pre K-4. 3 Credits.  
An exploration of theory and practice for developing a supportive language arts environment, with focus on facilitating the development of language competencies—writing, listening, speaking, viewing and visually representing—in children.  
Pre / Co requisites: EDR 503 requires a prerequisite of EGP 501.

EDR 505. Orthographic Knowledge Language And Lit Dev. 3 Credits.  
The purpose of this course is to acquaint students with the development of orthographic knowledge from its earliest awareness to its full fruition and its relation to language and literacy acquisition and instruction. Assessment strategies along each stage of its development will be explored as well as concomitant pedagogy. Attention will be paid to the causes of difficulties in acquiring orthographic knowledge and to appropriate instruction.

EDR 507. Comprehension & Vocabulary: Dev & Instruc. 3 Credits.  
This course introduces students to the theoretical bases of comprehension and vocabulary development. Best practices in teaching, supporting and assessing comprehension and vocabulary will be an integral part of the course.

EDR 509. Writing Development and Instruction. 3 Credits.  
Strategies for teaching the language arts. Methods, materials, and resources for organizing creative programs in school settings.

EDR 510. Foundations Of Reading Instruction: K-12. 3 Credits.  
Psychology and pedagogy of reading instruction. The nature of the reading process; the nature of the learner; skill development; instructional strategies.

EDR 512. Literacy Practicum and Seminar I. 3 Credits.  
A practicum course in assessment and instruction of the young reader/writer. Major attention given to understanding a child’s language and literacy development, and planning and carrying out appropriate instruction for that child. Students will use a variety of formal and informal assessments to design an individual instructional program. Field clearances are required.

EDR 513. Reading in PRE K-4 Classroom. 3 Credits.  
This course prepares students for teaching using a balanced approach of various theoretical teaching models based on current research and knowledge. Through readings, lectures, and class activities, students will develop a solid understanding of the reading process, and how to construct and manage a classroom environment that promotes optimal literacy learning. Students will learn to meet the diverse needs of learners at all stages of literacy development, assess students to monitor reading progress, and plan appropriate reading instruction.

EDR 514. Reading In The Content Areas. 3 Credits.  
Reading skills, reading problems, teaching techniques, and reading activities in content subjects at the elementary and secondary levels.

EDR 515. Teaching Reading with Child's and Adolescent's Lit. 3 Credits.  
Based on the philosophy that literature should be an integral element of reading programs. The emphasis is on fostering wide reading and response to literature in K-12 reading programs. Students will learn instructional strategies and develop materials and a selected bibliography.

EDR 516. Problems in Literacy Development. 3 Credits.  
The purpose of this course is to acquaint the student with the theoretical bases and the nature of differences in literacy development. The developmental nature of literacy growth and the importance of instruction within students’ zone of proximal development will be explored. Students will investigate how literacy differences are influenced by social, emotional, psychological, physical, and educational factors. Best practices in teaching, supporting, and assessing students with literacy differences will be an integral part of the course.

EDR 517. Distance Education. 3 Credits.  
Distance education offering may be available.
EDR 518. Language Arts for Grades 4-8. 3 Credits.
A study of theory, trends, curriculum, and pedagogy for integrating language arts across the curriculum in grades 4 though 8, with emphasis on connections among listening, speaking, writing, and reading.
Pre / Co requisites: EDR 518 requires prerequisite of EDP 501.

EDR 519. Issues of Diversity in Teaching Reading. 3 Credits.
This course examines the historical, cultural, and educational contexts of literacy, language, and learning as they relate to teaching instruction.
Pre / Co requisites: EDR 519 requires prerequisites of EDR 505, EDR 507, EDR 509 and EDR 515.

EDR 523. Literacy Field Experience PreK-4. 3 Credits.
A field-based course designed to enable its participants to review, practice, and investigate various approaches to planning, teaching, and evaluating literacy practices within the context of a grade PreK-4 reading practicum. Field clearances are required.
Pre / Co requisites: EDR 523 requires prerequisite EDR 503, EDR 513.

EDR 526. Emerging Literacy and Beginning Reading. 3 Credits.
Concerned with young children's literacy development from preschool through the primary grades. Emphasis on instructional recommendations and implementations for a range of abilities. Included are supervised one-on-one and/or small-group teaching experiences. Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

EDR 528. Reading in Grades 4-8. 3 Credits.
An exploration of current research and practice to prepare candidates to utilize a balanced approach to teach reading to children and young adolescents in grades 4 through 8.
Pre / Co requisites: EDR 528 requires a prerequisite of EDP 501.

EDR 532. Literacy and Practicum Seminar II. 3 Credits.
A practicum course in assessment and instruction of independent readers/writers. Using formal and informal measures, students will complete a case study of an independent reader/writer, analyze strengths and areas of need, and design an individualized plan for literacy growth. Using this plan, students will tutor children and evaluate the results. Field clearances are required.
Pre / Co requisites: EDR 532 requires prerequisites of EDR 505, EDR 507, EDR 509, EDR 514, and EDR 516.

EDR 535. Language, Learning And Literacy. 3 Credits.
This course is intended to help teachers reflect on the developmental nature of language and literacy, and the critical links between language, learning, and literacy. Students will investigate major theories and issues of language and literacy and will explore links between theory and practice. The relationship of class, gender, dialect, and ethnicity to literacy and learning will be addressed throughout the course. Attention will be given to individual variation in language, learning, and literacy issues.
Pre / Co requisites: EDR 535 requires a prerequisite of EDE 532 or EDE 554 for students in the M.Ed. in Applied Studies in Teaching and Learning. Typically offered in Spring.

EDR 538. Literacy Field Experience Grades 4-8. 3 Credits.
EDR 538 is a field-based course designed to enable its participants to review, practice, and investigate various approaches to planning, teaching, and evaluating literacy practices within the context of a grade 4-8 reading practicum. Field clearances are required.
Pre / Co requisites: EDR 538 requires prerequisites EDR 518, EDR 528.

EDR 541. Organization and Supervision of Literacy Programs. 3 Credits.
Development, organization, and supervision of literacy programs K-12. Emphasis is on the use of the total school community in meeting individual needs. Field clearances are required.
Pre / Co requisites: EDR 541 requires prerequisites of EDR 505, EDR 507, EDR 509, EDR 512, and EDR 516.
Distance education offering may be available.

EDR 546. E-Reading in K-12 Classrooms. 3 Credits.
This online course addresses the unique and changing demands put upon readers as they are expected to read and comprehend digital texts. Participants gain understanding of theories of digital reading, instructional strategies for improving students' comprehension of digital texts, and assessments of digital literacy.
Distance education offering may be available. Typically offered in Fall, Spring & Summer.