Masters of Science Degree Program

Program Rationale: The Master of Science degree in Reading and Language Arts is designed to prepare literacy professionals who are knowledgeable and competent in providing quality support, to enhance students’ literacy learning, and who meet the standards for reading professionals as defined by the International Reading Association and by state mandates. The master’s program offers three strands.

**Strand I:** Classroom Instruction in Reading and Language Arts (30 credits) is designed to prepare teachers for teaching reading and language arts to diverse groups of students in a classroom context.

**Strand II:** Reading-Mathematics (30 credits) is designed to prepare teachers to teach both literacy and numeracy to diverse groups of students in a classroom context.

**Strand III:** Corrective and Remedial Reading and Language Arts (30 credits) is designed to prepare teachers to become reading specialists in compliance with the state standards for advanced certification in remedial reading and remedial language arts.

The candidate’s planned program of graduate study totals a minimum of 30 credits and must include the following: either

- **Plan A:** RDG 599 Thesis (6 credits) or RDG 599 (3 credits) and RDG 598 Seminar in Reading and Language Arts Research (3 credits) or
- **Plan B:** RDG 598 Seminar in Reading and Language Arts Research (3 credits) and Comprehensive Exam, including a field of study (27 credits).

A planned program of graduate study will be developed by the candidate and the program advisor. Based on the program advisor’s evaluation of candidate’s needs, background, and experiences in reading and language arts, a candidate may need to complete additional coursework for his/her planned program of graduate study and therefore may exceed the minimum of 30 credits.

**Program Learning Outcomes:** The Master of Science degree program in Reading and Language Arts is based on the IRA/NCTE standards for reading professionals. In order to prepare knowledgeable and competent reading and language arts classroom teachers and/or reading specialists, students in the program are expected to:

- meet the IRA standards for reading professionals;
- provide leadership, through modeling and mentoring colleagues and other support staff, and acquire a wide range of instructional practices, approaches, methods, and curriculum materials to facilitate their reading and writing instruction;
- be knowledgeable in various assessments appropriate for a wide range of diversity in the classroom, including technologically based assessments, and are able to select, administer, and interpret assessments to enhance student learning and to communicate results to educational stakeholders;
- create a literate environment to facilitate successful reading and writing for all children; and
- continue to be lifelong learners and scholars, through reading, research, and professional development, and leaders in advocating to advance the professional research base to expand knowledge-based practices.

**Course and Capstone Requirements:**

**Strand in Classroom Instruction in Reading and Language Arts (non-certification track)**
The Strand in Classroom Instruction in Reading and Language Arts totals 30 credits. The candidate’s planned program of graduate study requires the following reading and language arts courses:

- RDG 503 Developmental Reading in PK–12
- RDG 585 Reading in Content Area
- RDG 589 Creative Language Arts

and includes courses from the following:

- RDG 502 Current Trends in Developmental Reading PK–12
- RDG 569 Folktelling Art and Technique
- RDG 578 Teaching Writing in the Elementary Schools
- RDG 579 Technology in Reading & Language Arts Instruction
- RDG 582 Introduction to Critical Literacy
- RDG 586 Literacy Instruction for Diverse Populations I
- RDG 587 Bibliotherapy
- RDG 588 Teaching Children’s Literature

**Strand in Reading-Mathematics (non-certification track)**
The strand in Reading-Mathematics totals 30 credits. The candidate’s planned program of graduate study requires the following reading and language arts courses:
RDG 503 Developmental Reading in PK–12
RDG 585 Reading in Content Area
RDG 589 Creative Language Arts

and includes courses from the following:
RDG 502 Current Trends in Developmental Reading PK–12
RDG 578 Teaching Writing in the Elementary Schools
RDG 579 Technology in Reading and Language Arts Instruction
RDG 582 Introduction to Critical Literacy
RDG 586 Literacy Instruction for Diverse Population I
RDG 588 Teaching Children’s Literature

The remaining 12–15 credits are mathematics courses recommended by the department of mathematical sciences.

**Strand in Corrective and Remedial Reading and Language Arts (certification track)**
The Strand in Corrective and Remedial Reading and Language Arts totals 30 credits and requires the clinical sequence—RDG 594, 595, and 596—and the following courses:
RDG 503 Developmental Reading in PK–12
RDG 585 Reading in Content Area
RDG 589 Creative Language Arts

The rest of a candidate’s planned program of graduate study may include courses from the following:
RDG 502 Current Trends in Developmental Reading PK–12
RDG 569 Folktales Art and Technique
RDG 578 Teaching Writing in the Elementary Schools
RDG 579 Technology in Reading and Language Arts Instruction
RDG 582 Introduction to Critical Literacy
RDG 586 Literacy Instruction for Diverse Population I
RDG 587 Bibliotherapy
RDG 588 Teaching Children’s Literature