

# PhD in Education

With a specialization in  
**Literacy(ies), Culture, and Reading**



This program is dedicated to the improvement of literacy research and education, teaching PhD students to be better researchers, educators, and administrative leaders.

“I’ve always wanted to get a PhD. I had a great experience with Mason, and the literacy program was so personalized that I could apply what I learned immediately. I went to work as a literacy coach and then as an ESOL [English for Speakers of Other Languages] Specialist at the district level, and was able to extend the reach of my expertise. I now have a job as a senior research advisor and consult for K-12 districts across the country.”

— **Marriam Ewaida**  
MEd Curriculum and Instruction '09,  
PhD Education '17

## Where this degree can take you

With this specialization, a graduate can seek employment in academia, think tanks, and education non-profits. The degree also qualifies graduates to prepare other teachers in the latest literacy learning methods, and ascend to positions of leadership in K-12 school districts.

[cehd.gmu.edu/phd-literacy](http://cehd.gmu.edu/phd-literacy)



## College of Education and Human Development

Office of Admissions  
Thompson Hall, Suite 1700  
4400 University Drive, MSN 4D1  
Fairfax, VA 22030

tel 703.993.2892  
email [cehdgrad@gmu.edu](mailto:cehdgrad@gmu.edu)

## Funding Options

**15%** tuition discount for qualified Virginia educators

~ **40%** out-of-state discount off of the university's approved rate for out-of-state graduate students

A few graduate assistantships and fellowships are available

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

## Course Work

Doctoral candidates complete a sequence of core courses and primary specialization courses as well as 18 credits from the secondary emphasis of their choosing. Find more details about secondary emphasis area options at [cehd.gmu.edu/phd](http://cehd.gmu.edu/phd).

### Core Courses

- EDUC 800 Ways of Knowing
- EDUC 810 Problems and Methods in Education Research
- EDUC 812 Qualitative Methods in Educational Research
- Two additional Educational Research Course Electives

### Specialization Courses

- EDRD 829 Advanced Foundations of Literacy Education
- EDRD 830 Theory, Research, and Practice in Literacy: Birth through Middle Childhood
- EDRD 831 Theory, Research, and Practice in Literacy: Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood
- EDRD 832 Research Methodologies and Trends in Literacy
- EDRD 833 Literacy and Learning in the Digital Age
- EDRD 834 Research in Reading Motivation

### Additional Course and Program Requirements

- Secondary specialization emphasis, 18 credits
- Portfolio Review
- Dissertation, 12 credits

## Faculty

Faculty in this program have research interests spanning teachers' beliefs, literacy coaching, teacher education, professional development, adolescent literacy best practices, social equity through science education, adaptive teaching, digitally supported reading and writing, urban teacher education, social justice education, elementary students and fiction reading, and coding literacy. Mason professors have served as president of the Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers, led international literacy education boards, published dozens of articles and books, served as educational consultants for school systems at home and overseas, garnered numerous awards for literacy learning research, and been awarded millions in research grants from the National Department of Education.

## Application Information

Information on the requirements and process for applying can be found at [cehd.gmu.edu/phd](http://cehd.gmu.edu/phd). To apply for fall admissions, applications must be received by January 15. For spring admissions applications are due by October 1.