

# Reading Specialist

## Master of Education & Graduate Certificate Options



### WHAT YOU'LL STUDY

Learn about K-12 literacy development along with ways to assess and develop targeted instruction to help all students improve their literacy skills and strategies. Deepen your knowledge with teaching methods grounded in research while developing the skills you need to become a literacy leader.

### FORMAT

- Students can complete a Master of Education for 33 credits or a Graduate Certificate for 21 credits.
- Courses are offered online and face-to-face throughout the semester to provide the flexibility you need and are offered in cohort format, allowing students to move through the program together on a set schedule.
- Courses are offered at Mason's Fairfax campus, at sites across Northern Virginia, and fully online.

### WHERE THIS DEGREE WILL TAKE YOU

- The literacy course work, 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 research-based teaching and literacy leadership techniques.
- Students in these programs have the opportunity to become reading specialists, developing 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, reading 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)

- **EDRD 630** Literacy Foundations and Instruction for Diverse Populations: Birth Through Middle Childhood
- **EDRD 631** Literacy Foundations and Instruction for Diverse Populations: Adolescence Through Adulthood
- **EDRD 632** Literacy Assessments and Interventions for Groups
- **EDRD 633** Literacy Assessments and Interventions for Individuals
- **EDRD 634** School-Based Leadership in Literacy
- **EDRD 635** School-Based Inquiry in Literacy
- **EDRD 637** Supervised Literacy Practicum

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**Research Course**  
(3 credits)

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**Electives** (9 credits)  
Focused on English Learners  
and/or Special Education

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**Curriculum & Instruction MEd  
Literacy Leadership for  
Diverse Schools** (33 credits)

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**ASTL Core Courses** (12 credits)

Focused on Core Propositions of  
the National Board for Professional  
Teaching Standards to help teachers  
take an inquiry stance on their  
educational practice and lead from the  
classroom

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**Curriculum & Instruction MEd  
ASTL Literacy:  
Reading Specialist** (33 credits)

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

[cehdgrad@gmu.edu](mailto:cehdgrad@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.