



Brief Program Description

The Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, through the Language Literacy and Culture Practitioner Concentration, offers a Master's degree in education (M.Ed.), a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies (CAGS), and preparation for English as a Second Language (ESL) Licensure (grades PreK-6 or 5-12) and Reading Specialist Licensure (grades preK-12). These programs prepare educators to explore more equitable and effective ways of working with first language (L1) and second language (L2) learners in a variety of contexts, including inclusion in content/general education classes, sheltered-ESL classes, pullout classes, and bilingual programs.

The Reading Specialist Licensure is available at the graduate level to candidates, in both the M.Ed. and CAGS programs, who have at least one year of teaching experience and who already hold an initial license.

Who May Apply

The Language Literacy and Culture Practitioner Concentration is interested in applicants who are committed to social justice and have the experiences and skills required to create affirming and academically challenging learning environments for their future students. Central to the goals of the LLC Practitioner Concentration is the recruitment of students with diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

Admission Process and Criteria

M.Ed. and CAGS applicants must have a strong academic record and meet the following requirements:

- A Bachelors of Arts, Science or interdisciplinary major
- A 2.75 undergraduate GPA
- A minimum TOEFL score of 550 or equivalent computerized score (*this applies to international students only*)
- Evidence of being able to develop equitable and supportive relationships with diverse people
- Evidence (including, but not limited to, a personal statement, letters of recommendation, and previous academic record) of
 - a. The ability to successfully carry out an intellectually challenging graduate program.
 - b. A demonstrated commitment to the profession (e.g., participation in professional organizations), and
 - c. A commitment to equity in education and an appreciation of cultural and linguistic diversity.

While not a requirement for admission, fluency or near-fluency in a language other than English is viewed as an advantage, as is experience in multilingual and multicultural settings.

To apply for the M.Ed. or CAGS programs, applicants should submit the following to the Graduate School:

- A Graduate School Application Form*
- Two letters of recommendation
- Two copies of an official transcript
- A personal statement and resume*
- An application fee

*Applicants interested in pursuing Reading Specialist Licensure should indicate on their application form that they are interested in pursuing this licensure and should write a personal statement which addresses their philosophy of reading and writing instruction as well as their professional experience and goals.

Graduate School Applications and further instructions can be obtained by writing to the Graduate Admissions Office, Goodell Building., University of Massachusetts, 530 Hicks Way, Amherst, MA 01003-9333, by phone at (413) 545-0722, or by consulting the Graduate Admissions homepage:
<http://www.umass.edu/umhome/admissions/index.php>

Course of Study for Reading Specialist Licensure

The course of study for the Reading Specialist licensure consists of 24 credits of **prescribed** course work, all of which can be counted towards the M.Ed. or CAGS degrees. This course of study includes field-based projects in both schools and community settings, a practicum, and the completion of a Field Experience Binder (FEB), demonstrating your achievement of the state and IRA standards required for Reading Specialists.

Upon satisfactory completion of all M.Ed. or CAGS requirements, students are recommended to the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for Reading Specialist licensure. The course of study for the M.Ed. consists of 33 credits and a Master's Leadership Project and/or a Research Project. CAGS students must complete a minimum of 30 credits.

The LLC Practitioner Concentration offers M.Ed. and CAGS students the following courses at various times throughout a four-semester cycle. Courses marked with an asterisk have been specifically designed to address the standards required by (a) the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for licensure as a Reading Specialist and the International Reading Association (IRA) standards

for Reading Specialists. In order to decide which courses to take at different stages of their program, students must meet with their assigned advisors.

- *EDUC 500L Student Teaching ESL
- *EDUC 533 Teaching ESL: Methods and Materials
- *EDUC 594A Managing Culturally Responsive Classrooms
- *EDUC 611 Testing, Assessment and Evaluation in Bilingual & ESL Education
- EDUC 615L Cross-cultural Communication
- EDUC 615S W/E: Language & Literacy Policy
- *EDUC 616 Principles of Second Language Learning & Teaching
- *EDUC 670 Language & Language Learning
- EDUC 677 Foundations of BEM Education
- EDUC 681 Teaching Reading & Writing on the Secondary Level
- *EDUC 684 Reading, Writing, Language & Thinking
- EDUC 687 Language Development & Literacy
- EDUC 692L Workshop in LLC Project Development
- *EDUC 697T Teaching Content for Language Development
- EDUC 697W Critical Innovations in World Language Curriculum Development
- EDUC 783 Diagnosing Reading Difficulties
- EDUC 784 Issues in Children's Literature
- EDUC 791Z Learning and teaching L2 Language

Licensure Advising

Upon admission to the LLC Practitioner Concentration, students are assigned a faculty advisor. Faculty advisors meet with students regularly to plan and revise their course of study. In addition, a licensure advisor assists students with the licensure process. For more information on Reading Specialist Licensure, contact:

LLC Licensure Office:
205 Furcolo Hall
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003
Telephone: (413) 545-3675
E-mail: llclicensure@gmail.com

For more information on the M.Ed or CAGS degrees, please contact:
Dr. Jerri Willett
117 Furcolo Hall
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003
Telephone: (413) 545-3675
E-mail: willett@educ.umass.edu

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the Reading Specialist licensure program are eligible for a wide variety of positions supporting literacy learning in schools. Some teach reading and writing to students in separate classrooms or support students' learning in their regular classrooms. Others work primarily with teachers, supporting the development of effective curriculum and instruction in reading and writing through demonstration teaching and other forms of staff development.

LICENSURE INFORMATION AND STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL): The MTEL is required for licensure by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The test has two parts: the Communication and Literacy Skills (C&LS) test and the Subject area test(s). The University's policy is that:

- Undergraduates must achieve a passing score on the C&LS test as a prerequisite for admission.
- Post-baccalaureate and graduate students must achieve a passing score on the C&LS test in their first semester of study.
- All students must pass the Subject test(s) (if one has been developed for that licensure field) before enrolling in the practicum.

Licensure Application Process: The Educator Licensure Office (ELO) in the School of Education coordinates the licensure application process for all University Educator Preparation program students who have completed all licensing requirements. The ELO provides information to guide students in using the Electronic Licensure and Recruitment system (ELAR), a system in which students apply for educator licenses online. The ELAR system requires a student to apply for his/her license online (including the payment of license fees) and send an official copy of his/her transcript to the ELO in Room 130 Furcolo Hall (being sure that the transcript includes the "Institutional Recommendation for Educator Licensure"). After individuals have applied online, the ELO endorses/recommends candidates for licensure via ELAR. The University Licensure/Certification Officer also assists students in completing applications for licensure/certification in other states, as necessary.

Career and Job Search Assistance: The School of Education, in collaboration with Career Services, sponsors a Job Fair for prospective educators. The Job Fair draws school districts from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont and New Hampshire. In addition, Career Services provides information and registration for the Massachusetts Educational Recruiting Consortium (MERC), a recruitment fair attended by school districts from across the nation.

The University of Massachusetts Amherst prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, gender, sexual preference, age, marital status, national origin, mental or physical handicap, political belief or affiliation, membership or non-membership in any organization, or veteran status, in any aspect of the admission or treatment of students or in employment.