

Master of Science in Education in Literacy Education

The master of science in education in literacy education, an advanced certification for teachers, provides students with a sound theoretical and empirical knowledge base relating to literacy acquisition. The purpose of the program is to enable students to become informed decision makers who are capable of designing and implementing appropriate up-to-date instruction in reading and writing at all levels. Students will acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to become effective advocates for improving literacy instruction in their schools. The program is designed for classroom teachers, literacy teachers, and other experienced educators whose primary responsibility is helping students to become competent users of language. The literacy education program offers the following: a Master of Science in Education in Literacy Education (36 credit hours of coursework and successful completion of a synthesizing project); a Master of Science in Education in Literacy Education with a concentration in English as a Second Language (36 credit hours of coursework and successful completion of a synthesizing project); a Master of Science in Education in Applied Literacy (an option only for ETEP/CLASS/TEAMS); a Post-Master's Certificate of Advanced Study in Literacy Education (30 credit hours of coursework including a capstone experience); a Post-Master's Certificate of Advanced Study in English as a Second Language (30 credit hours of coursework including a capstone experience); and a Certificate of Graduate Study in Literacy. For advising purposes, it is recommended that students take no more than two courses before applying to the program. Individuals seeking Maine certification as a literacy specialist through this program must also pass the Praxis II exam required by the state.

Special Admission Requirements

Testing Requirements Applicants to the literacy education program must take the MAT or GRE. One of the tests must be taken within five years of application. For those taking the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) you must have earned a score of 40 points or above, or a score of 390 or above if the test was taken after September 30, 2004. For the GRE (Graduate Record Exam) you must have earned a score of 900 or above combined verbal and quantitative scores (this requirement is waived for applicants already holding a graduate degree); and have earned a score of at least 550 on the paper-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), 79 or higher on the Internet-based test, or 213 on the computer-based test for students whose native language is not English.

Applicants who did not score 40, or 390 if the test was taken after September 30, 2004, on the MAT or 900 combined on the verbal and quantitative sections of the GRE must enclose a letter asking for special consideration, in which they provide evidence of an ability to complete graduate studies successfully. Without such a letter, applicants who fail to meet eligibility requirements may be automatically denied.

Transfer Credit Previously completed graduate courses may be approved for transfer into a graduate program within the literacy education program if credits for the courses were earned no more than five years prior to matriculation, with grades of B or better. A syllabus for each course submitted for transfer credit must be provided upon application.

For previous work completed through the University of Maine System (UMS), up to twelve (12) credits may be accepted if the courses meet the requirements above and are equivalent to core courses or elective courses in the relevant USM program of study. Up to six (6) graduate credits completed at institutions outside of the University of Maine System may be accepted if the courses meet the requirements above and are equivalent to core courses or elective courses in the relevant USM program of study.

Transfer of more than twelve (12) University of Maine System credits or six (6) non-University of Maine System credits may be approved by the program coordinator and faculty. These credits may include certificate of graduate study program courses and professional development in-service graduate courses. Requests for the transfer of credits taken more than five (5) years prior to matriculation may also be evaluated and approved by the program coordinator and faculty.

Program Requirements

First Tier Courses (15 credit hours)

EDU	511	Children's Literature or
EDU	513	Adolescent Literature
EDU	559	Aspects of Reading for Multilingual Learners or
EDU	562	Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in the Classroom
EDU	600	Research Methods and Techniques
EDU	620	Reading Development and Instruction
EDU	626	The Writing Process

Second Tier Courses (12 credit hours)

EDU	514	Improving Teaching in Content Areas through Literacy
EDU	521	Electronic Literacy and Education or
EDU	622	Designing and Managing Literacy Instruction, PS-3
EDU	607	Teacher Research in Literacy
EDU	621	Literacy Problems: Assessment and Instruction

Third Tier Courses (9 credit hours)

EDU	634	Seminar in Literacy Research
EDU	639	Practicum in Literacy Education (6 credits)

Students are advised, in general, to take first tier courses before second tier courses, and to take third tier courses last. Within each tier, the order of courses taken does not matter. Each tier builds on previously taken courses, and upper level courses often have prerequisites.

Concentration in English as a Second Language

The master of science in education in literacy education with a concentration in English as a second language (ESL) provides students with the knowledge base related to language acquisition by English language learners (ELLs). The emphasis is on literacy development in the second language. The program provides classroom practitioners with the skills needed to assess language and implement instruction to improve learners' proficiency for competent second language use.

Program of Study (36 credits)

EDU	514	Improving Teaching in Content Areas through Literacy
EDU	559	Aspects of Reading for Multilingual Learners
EDU	561	Aspects of the English Language*
EDU	562	Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in the Classroom*
EDU	563	ESL Testing and Assessment*
EDU	600	Research Methods and Techniques
EDU	607	Teacher Research in Literacy
EDU	620	Reading Development and Instruction*
EDU	626	The Writing Process*
EDU	635	Seminar in Second Language Literacy
EDU	639	Practicum in Literacy Education (6 credits)

State endorsement in ESL requires prior professional teacher certification as well as coursework in ESL instruction. The master's degree in literacy education with an ESL concentration does not qualify graduates for Maine literacy specialist certification.

*These courses meet state requirements and should be selected with the guidance of an advisor. Further information on the ESL concentration and courses may be obtained from the program coordinator.

Applied Literacy, ETEP option

Please see Master's Degree Options located within the Extended Teacher Education Program section of this catalog.

Post-Master's Certificate of Advanced Study in Literacy Education

The post-master's certificate of advanced study program in literacy education is designed to meet the needs of classroom teachers, administrators, and other educators who want to pursue advanced graduate study in literacy education and related areas.

The CAS requires 30 credit hours of graduate coursework, including a capstone experience. Students may design a program to suit their needs for advanced study. The program will vary, depending on the focus of the master's degree and the student's goals. Students will have considerable choice in designing coursework and projects, and will work closely with a faculty advisor. Maine certification as a literacy specialist may be earned through the CAS program. Please consult your advisor.

Program Requirements (30 credits)

Electives (30 credits)

With advisor consultation, students may select graduate courses in education or other disciplines that relate to their focus in literacy and contribute to their overall plan of study.

Advanced Seminar in Literacy/Capstone Project

For specific requirements please see the literacy education Web site at www.usm.maine.edu/cehd/Literacy-Education/prog_materials.htm.

Post-Master's Certificate of Advanced Study in English as a Second Language

The post-master's certificate of advanced study in English as a second language (ESL) is designed to meet the needs of classroom teachers, administrators, and other educators who want to pursue advanced graduate study in ESL and related areas and/or earn Maine endorsement as an ESL teacher, K-12. The CAS requires 30 credit hours of graduate coursework beyond the master's degree, including a capstone experience. Students may design a program to suit their needs for advanced study. The program will vary depending on the master's degree focus and the goals of the student. Participants will have considerable choice in designing coursework and projects, and will work closely with a faculty advisor.

Program Requirements

EDU 660	CAS Seminar (3 credits)
Concentration (18 credits, endorsement program)	
EDU 559	Aspects of Reading for Multilingual Learners
EDU 561	Aspects of the English Language
EDU 562	Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in the Classroom
EDU 563	ESL Testing and Assessment
EDU 600	Research Methods and Techniques or
EDU 607	Teacher Research in Literacy
EDU 635	Seminar in Second Language Literacy

Electives (6 credits)

Advanced Seminar in Literacy/Capstone Project (3 credits)

For specific requirements please see the literacy education Web site at www.usm.maine.edu/cehd/Literacy-Education/prog_materials.htm.

Certificate of Graduate Study in Early Language and Literacy

The certificate of graduate study in early language and literacy is a four-course sequence that provides students with a thorough understanding of the development of early language and concepts that are foundational to understanding and using printed language. Those who complete the certificate program can design early care and preschool curricula to effectively implement strategies to foster this development in all children, ages 0-5, and can coach others in these strategies and practices. The program was developed in collaboration with the USM Muskie School's Cutler Institute for Child and Family Policy.

This 12-credit program consists of four graduate-level courses.

The courses include:

EDU 516	Early Care and Education Policy
EDU 517	Early Language and Literacy Learning
EDU 518	Using Literature to Support Learning in Young Children
EDU 519	Early Language and Literacy Curriculum and Instructional Design

*Certificate of Graduate
Study in Literacy*

Admission to the certificate program is based on successful completion of a bachelor's degree and an interest in early language and literacy. For application instructions please refer to the College's section on admission to certificate of graduate study programs.

The certificate of graduate study in literacy program is offered to accommodate teachers and special education teachers, educational technicians, and other holders of baccalaureate degrees who do not want to complete all of the requirements for a master's degree but who wish to obtain a basic background in literacy. Students who complete program requirements receive official transcript recognition of their work and a certificate from the literacy education program attesting to their completion of coursework in reading and writing instruction. Holders of the certificate have the competencies and proficiency levels needed to plan effective literacy instruction for their students. Although credits from the certificate program may be transferable to a master's program, students who wish to matriculate into a master's program must apply separately for admission.

This 12-credit program consists of four graduate-level courses in literacy education.

The courses include:

- EDU 511 Children's Literature **or**
- EDU 513 Adolescent Literature
- EDU 514 Improving Teaching in Content Areas through Literacy **or**
- EDU 521 Electronic Literacy and Education
- EDU 620 Reading Development and Instruction
- EDU 626 The Writing Process

Admission to the literacy certificate program is based on successful completion of a bachelor's degree and an interest in literacy-related issues. For application instructions please refer to the CEHD section on admission to certificate of graduate study programs.