

Literacy Education

The Literacy Education program is designed to provide educators with a thorough understanding of literacy development, process, and instruction. Because literacy is the foundation for school success in every curricular area, and it profoundly affects the personal lives of all citizens, the importance of effective literacy teaching and learning cannot be overemphasized. The purpose of the program is to develop and support leaders in literacy education.

The program's commitment to the promotion of multicultural literacy is reflected in an ESL concentration, the only one of its kind in Maine. Acquisition of basic English skills is a major factor in successful acculturation of immigrants and refugees into our communities and is critical to success in our schools and workforce. This concentration is dedicated to meeting the growing demand for qualified individuals to provide ESL instruction within our schools and social service agencies.

Getting Started

The Literacy Education program allows prospective students to pursue up to six credits of its foundation courses before applying for admission. Suggested courses to pursue before applying are detailed under the course requirements section within each concentration. Please note that successful completion of courses under non-degree ("non-matriculated") student status does not guarantee admission to a graduate program. For a complete listing of transfer course policies, registration instructions, and current USM course offerings and availability, see the Web page for non-degree students at www.usm.maine.edu/cehd/prospective-students/non-degree.htm

CERTIFICATE OF GRADUATE STUDY IN EARLY LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

A Certificate of Graduate Study in Early Language and Literacy is for those who wish to have a thorough understanding of the development of early language and concepts that are foundational to understanding and using printed language. Those who complete the four course sequence will be able to design early care and preschool curricula to effectively implement strategies to foster this development in all children, ages 0-5, and will be able to coach others in these strategies and practices. The program was developed in collaboration with the Muskie School's Cutler Institute for Child and Family Policy, and consist of the following courses:

Course Requirements (12 credits)

- 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

PROGRAM OPTIONS

Certificate of Graduate Study in

- Early Language and Literacy
- Literacy Education

(rolling admission for certificates)

Master of Science in Education in Literacy Education

- English as a Second Language concentration

Post-Master's Certificate of Advanced Study

- Literacy Education
- English as a Second Language

Rolling Admission Application Deadlines

<u>Priority Deadlines</u>	<u>Matriculation Dates</u>
September 1	Spring Semester
October 15	Spring Semester
February 1	Summer Semester
March 15	Summer Semester
May 1	Fall Semester

CERTIFICATE OF GRADUATE STUDY IN LITERACY EDUCATION

The Certificate of Graduate Study in Literacy Education is offered to accommodate teachers and special education teachers, educational technicians, and other holders of baccalaureate degrees who wish to begin acquiring a basic background in literacy without undertaking a full Master's degree program. The sequence of courses focuses on how students acquire literacy (reading and writing) and how they evolve as literacy users; coursework may be modified with an advisor. Holders of the certificate will be able to plan effective literacy instruction for their students. Credits earned from this certificate program may be transferable to a degree program. The certificate does not lead to state certification.

Course Requirements (12 credits)

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

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MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION (M.S.ED) IN LITERACY EDUCATION

The Master's level program in Literacy Education provides students with a sound theoretical and empirical knowledge base relating to literacy acquisition. Through this program, students become informed decision makers who are capable of designing and implementing appropriate up-to-date instruction in reading and writing at all levels. Students 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 specialists, and other experienced educators whose primary responsibility is helping students to become competent users of language.

The M.S. Ed. in Literacy Education requires 36 hours of coursework and successful completion of the clinical experience, EDU 639. A positive recommendation by faculty is a prerequisite to enrollment in this final phase of the program. Students who complete the program are eligible for Maine certification as a literacy specialist, provided they meet state requirements for successful classroom teaching experience. *Suggested courses to begin with are EDU 626, EDU 511 or 513, EDU 620, EDU 559.*

Course Requirements (36 credits)

The following courses are required of all candidates for the master's degree. If a course is waived for any reason, it may be replaced with an elective.

First Tier Courses

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

Second Tier Courses

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

Third Tier Courses

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

Comprehensive Exam

The comprehensive exam is a four-hour, written (computers may be used), closed-book examination. Students select three questions to respond to during the exam. The questions are drawn from a pool that students preview before the exam, to facilitate the review and synthesis of information.

M.S.ED IN LITERACY EDUCATION, ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CONCENTRATION

The English as a Second Language concentration provides students with a sound theoretical and empirical knowledge base relating to language acquisition for English Language Learners (ELLs). The coursework emphasizes literacy development in the second language and is designed to provide classroom practitioners with the skills to assess language deficiencies properly and implement instruction to improve learner proficiency for competent language use. The program leads to Maine endorsement as a teacher of ESL for qualified individuals. *Suggested courses to begin with are EDU 626, EDU 620, EDU 559, EDU 561.*

Course Requirements (36 credits)

- EDU 626 The Writing Process*
- EDU 514 Improving Teaching in the Content Area Through Literacy
- EDU 620 Reading Development and Instruction*
- 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 Language Testing and Assessment*
- EDU 600 Research Methods and Techniques
- EDU 607 Teacher Research in Literacy
- EDU 635 Seminar in Second Language Literacy
- EDU 639 Practicum in Literacy Education (6 credits)

*State endorsement in ESL requires professional teacher certification as well as coursework in ESL instruction. These courses meet state requirements and should be selected with the guidance of an advisor.

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POST-MASTER'S CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED STUDY IN LITERACY EDUCATION

The post-master's C.A.S. 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. Participants have considerable choice in self-designing coursework and projects and work closely with a faculty advisor to ensure that the course of study selected is appropriate, rigorous, and relevant. Students with appropriate background may earn Maine certification as a Literacy Specialist through the C.A.S. program.

Program Requirements (30 credits)

(Subject to change Fall 2008)

Core Course (3 credits)

EDU 660 C.A.S. Seminar

Electives (24 credits)

Students may select graduate courses in education or other disciplines at USM that relate to their focus area and contribute to their overall C.A.S. plan of study. Faculty advisor approval of selected courses is required.

Advanced Seminar in Literacy/Capstone Project (3 credits)

Each C.A.S. student is required to complete a capstone experience. There are many options for this project, including an original research project, an in-depth exploration of an issue related to literacy, a curriculum guide, or a similar project approved by the program faculty.

POST-MASTER'S CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED STUDY IN ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

This program is designed for classroom teachers, administrators, and other educators who want to pursue advanced graduate study in ESL and related areas and/or earn Maine ESL endorsement. The program is highly flexible, in recognition of each student's unique experiences and interests. Students have considerable choice in designing coursework and projects, working closely with a faculty advisor to achieve their academic goals.

Course Requirements (30 credits)

(Subject to change Fall 2008)

Core Course (3 credits)

EDU 660 C.A.S. Seminar

Concentration: ESL endorsement program (18 credits)

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 Language Testing and Assessment
EDU 600 Research Methods and Techniques OR
EDU 607 Teacher Research in Literacy
EDU 635 Seminar in Second Language Literacy

Electives

ESL endorsement: 6 credits

Self-designed program: 18 credits

Advanced Seminar in Literacy/Capstone Project (3 credits)

Each C.A.S. student is required to complete a capstone experience. There are many options for this project, including an original research project, an in-depth exploration of an issue related to literacy, a curriculum guide, or a similar project approved by the program faculty.

For More Information Contact:

Program Faculty

(207) 780-5400

Henry Amoroso (amoroso@usm.maine.edu)

Rob Whitman (rwhitman@usm.maine.edu)

ESL Coordinator

Donald Bouchard (donald.bouchard@maine.edu)

Office of Graduate Admissions

39 Exeter Street

(207) 780-4386

TTY: (207) 780-5646

FAX: (207) 780-4969

gradstudies@usm.maine.edu

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 9300

Portland, ME 04104-9300

www.usm.maine.edu/cehd/Literacy-Education/