

University of Kentucky

Degree: Master of Arts in Education

Degree Code: MAEDU

Rank Change (check one): Rank II

Program: Literacy Specialist Program with Rank Change

Major Code: READ 13.0301.01

Rank I

Name				Expected Date of Degree		
Candidate ID				Email		
Street Address				City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Home	Cell	Work	Semester of Admission to Master's Program		

A. Coursework Requirements for the Literacy Specialist Program: Non-Thesis Track and Thesis Track

The Literacy Specialist Endorsement Program is a 33 credit hour program that leads to a Master of Arts in Education degree and an endorsement as a literacy specialist with rank change. The program is aligned with the International Literacy Association's (ILA) Standards for Reading Professionals and the Kentucky Teacher Standards-Advanced.

Upon admission to the Literacy Specialist Program, candidates are assigned an advisor with whom they will complete the curriculum contract. Candidates can select one of two tracks; a non-thesis track consisting of 33 credit hours (including a portfolio or comprehensive examinations); and a thesis track consisting of 33 credit hours (including a thesis). Both tracks result in a Master of Arts in Education with rank change. Courses for both tracks are listed below. Candidates are urged to follow the curriculum contract to avoid delays in program completion.

Standards which Guide the Literacy Specialist Program:

- International Literacy Association (ILA) Standards for Reading Professionals <http://www.literacyworldwide.org/get-resources/standards/standards-for-reading-professionals>
- College of Education Functional Skills and Dispositions (FSD)
- Kentucky Teacher Standards (KTS) Advanced Indicators <http://epsb.ky.gov/documents/EduPrep/Kentuckyteacherstandards.pdf>

**Literacy Specialist Program
Non-Thesis Track (33 total credit hours)**

1. Required Coursework (30 hours required)

Course	Title	Year	Term	Grade	Credits
EDC 533	Teaching Literacy Across the Disciplines				
EDC 537	Advanced Applications of Teaching Writing				
EDC 541	Reading and Understanding Educational Research				
EDC 618	Advanced Study in the Teaching of Reading				
EDC 619	Assessment of Reading Growth and Development (Prerequisites: EDC 618 or permission of instructor)				
EDC 620	Design and Implementation of Reading Instruction (Prerequisites: EDC 618 or permission of instructor)				
EDC 621	Language and Literacy Development (Prerequisites: EDC 541 or equivalent course in research foundations)				
EDC 625	Literacy Leadership P-12				
EDC 626	Current Issues in Literacy Instruction				
EDC 642	Research and Theory in Literacy Education (Prerequisites: EDC 541 or equivalent course in research foundations)				

2. Electives* (3 hours required)

Course	Title	Year	Term	Grade	Credits
Total credit hours will recalculate as credit hours are entered. A minimum of 33 credit hours is required for completion of program.					

Literacy Specialist Program
Thesis Track (33 total credit hours)

1. Required Coursework (30 hours required)

Course	Title	Year	Term	Grade	Credits
EDC 533	Teaching Literacy Across the Disciplines				
EDC 537	Advanced Applications of Teaching Writing				
EDC 541	Reading and Understanding Educational Research				
EDC 618	Advanced Study in the Teaching of Reading				
EDC 619	Assessment of Reading Growth and Development (Prerequisites: EDC 618 or permission of instructor)				
EDC 620	Design and Implementation of Reading Instruction (Prerequisites: EDC 618 or permission of instructor)				
EDC 621	Language and Literacy Development (Prerequisites: EDC 541 or equivalent course in research foundations)				
EDC 625	Literacy Leadership P-12				
EDC 642	Research and Theory in Literacy Education (Prerequisites: EDC 541 or equivalent course in research foundations)				
EDC 768	Research Credit Master's Degree (6 credits) (Only for Candidates electing to do the thesis option for the exit exam)				
Total credit hours will recalculate as credit hours are entered. A minimum of 33 credit hours is required for completion of program.					

*Candidates selecting the thesis option will take no elective and will not take EDC 626. Instead, candidates electing to take the thesis option will take EDC 768 for 6 credits.

Summary (33 hours of graduate credit are required for completion)

Total number of credits completed	
Number of credits completed in courses numbered 600 or above	
Number of hours in progress	
Number of credits outside of education	
Total number of credits transferred into program (including UK post-baccalaureate)	
List credit hours for any "I", "S" or missing grades	

If you have any "I", "S" or missing grades, the course instructor must assign a grade before you will be permitted to sit for the final exam. Otherwise, the Director of Graduate Studies must petition the Graduate School for permission to sit for the final exam.

B. Continuous Assessment in the Literacy Specialist Program

To be considered for admission into the literacy specialist program, applicants must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with an overall GPA of at least 2.75. Candidates will hold a valid Kentucky teaching certification. Candidates must also have teaching experience. In addition to satisfying the criteria for admission to the University of Kentucky Graduate School, all advanced study candidates must complete an Application Packet for Admission to a University of Kentucky Advanced Level Educator Preparation Program, complete the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) and submit official scores to the University of Kentucky Graduate School, submit three letters of recommendation, establish a portfolio account on UK OTIS Online Portfolio System, and read and agree to the provisions of the Professional Code of Ethics of the Education Professional Standards Board.

1. GPA Check

Undergraduate GPA at Admission	
GPA at Midpoint Review	
GPA at Completion	
Overall	

2. Continuous Assessment Checkpoints

Satisfactory Entry Review

(Meet with your advisor at the beginning of your program to discuss coursework and final examination)

Satisfactory Mid-point/Retention Review

(Meet with your advisor after completing 15 credits to discuss continued coursework and final examination progress)

Satisfactory Exit Examination

(Meet with your advisor after completing 33 credits to discuss progress toward completing final examination)

Date	Comments

3. To Be Admitted to the Literacy Specialist Program Candidates Must:

The following are required components of the application and serve as the sources of entry-level evaluation:

Apply for admission to the University of Kentucky Graduate School

<http://www.research.uky.edu/gs/ProspectiveStudents/Admission.html>

Submit completed "Application Packet for Admission to a University of Kentucky Advanced Level Educator Preparation Program" to the Office of Academic Services and Teacher Certification, 166 Taylor Education Building

<https://education.uky.edu/AcadServ/sites/education.uky.edu/AcadServ/files/Application%20Admission%20UK%20Advanced%20Level%20Program%20Packet%20v1.0%2011052014.pdf>.

Complete the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) and have your scores submitted to the University of Kentucky Graduate School. Information about the exam is available at <http://www.ets.org/gre>.

Have an undergraduate education degree with an overall GPA of at least 2.75 from an accredited institution (as evidenced on official transcript)

Have at least a 3.0 GPA in any graduate coursework prior to admission

Have a valid teaching certificate

Have previous teaching experience

Submit three letters of recommendation

Establish a portfolio account on UK OTIS Online Portfolio System

<http://www.uky.edu/~gmswan3/>

Read and Agree to the provisions of the Professional Code of Ethics of the Education Professional Standards Board (<http://www.kyepsb.net/legal/ethics.asp>.)

Acknowledgment Signatures: The signatures below verify that the candidate has been advised concerning the requirements for admission to the Literacy Specialist Program by a Literacy Specialist Program faculty advisor and understands the requirements and procedures specified above. The candidate has also been advised on the UK coursework requirements for this program as documented by their signature below.

Candidate Signature: _____ Date: _____

Advisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

4. To Be Retained in the Literacy Specialist Program Candidates Must:

- Complete 15 credit hours
- Hold a 3.00 overall GPA on coursework to verify that candidate is eligible for retention and advancement
- Make satisfactory progress on Curriculum Contract (as determined by Advisor/Candidate discussion)
- Continue Adherence to the Professional Code of Ethics provisions of the Education Professional Standards Board (<http://www.kyepsb.net/legal/ethics.asp>.)
- Complete relevant signature assignments with at least a “Basic” level of progress on the Literacy Program Rubric from all completed coursework (as assessed by Literacy Program Faculty), including progress toward demonstrating all required standards in the UK OTIS Online Portfolio System

Acknowledgment Signatures: The signatures below verify that the candidate has met with a Literacy Specialist Program faculty advisor and reviewed progress toward a satisfactory midpoint retention review.

Candidate Signature: _____ Date: _____

Advisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

5. To Exit/Complete the Literacy Specialist Program Candidates Must:

- Successfully complete all courses (33 credit hours) included in the curriculum contract
 - Maintain at least a 3.0 graduate GPA in all coursework
 - Complete all signature assignments with at least a “Basic” level of progress on the Literacy Program Rubric from all completed coursework (as assessed by Literacy Program Faculty), including progress toward demonstrating all required standards in the UK OTIS Online Portfolio System
 - Show evidence of adherence to the Professional Code of Ethics for Educators of the Education Professional Standards Board (<http://www.kyepsb.net/legal/ethics.asp>.)
 - Submit the *Graduate School's Application for Degree* online by the deadline for the semester in which you plan to graduate: <http://www.research.uky.edu/gs/forms.html>
 - Submit this form to the Director of Graduate Studies no later than two weeks prior to your final examination, which may be either a: written comprehensive examination, a portfolio presentation, or a master's thesis.
 - Successfully complete final exam that is either: portfolio, comprehensive examination, or masters thesis
 - Successfully complete Reading Specialist Praxis II Exam
- Test Date:** **Score:** (qualifying score = 164)

Kentucky Test Requirements for Praxis II

- Information about the Praxis II exam is found on the information page located at <http://www.ets.org/praxis/ky/requirements>.
- On the information page scroll toward the bottom and click on *Endorsements*.
- Locate the **Literacy Specialist (P-12)** exam. You will need to take the **Reading Specialist** exam (**CDT Code 5301**). You will need a qualifying score of 164 to pass.
- Preparation materials for the Reading Specialist exam are available at <http://www.ets.org/praxis/prepare/materials/5301>

Praxis II Disclaimer: Kentucky educator certification requirements are subject to change. Before registering for the test(s), please check the Education Professional Standards Board website at www.epsb.ky.gov for current test requirements and current cut scores. You may also contact 502-564-4606 or toll free at 888-598-7667.

How to Apply for Master's Degree:

- Submit the *Graduate School's Application for Degree* online by the deadline for the semester in which you plan to graduate: <http://www.research.uky.edu/gs/forms.html>
- Submit this form to the Director of Graduate Studies no later than two weeks prior to your final examination, which may be either a: written comprehensive examination, a portfolio presentation, or a master's thesis.
- If your exam occurs before the degree application deadline, you must submit both the Application for Degree and Master's Verification Form no later than two weeks prior to the exam.
- Include with this form a copy of your transcript printed from your Link Blue myUK account available at <https://myuk.uky.edu/irj/portal>. You may also request an official transcript at <http://www.uky.edu/registrar/transcripts>.
- Submit a copy of this form along with a certification application and official graduate and undergraduate transcripts to Academic Services and Teacher Certification, 166 Taylor Education Building. These transcripts are required in addition to the official transcripts submitted during the admissions process. If you request a UK transcript prior to graduation, indicate "hold for posting of degree". Certification and transcript request forms are available online: <http://education.uky.edu/AcadServ/>.
- For answers to our most frequently asked questions, please print a copy of Master's Degree Graduation Applications, www.uky.edu/Education/EDC/Grad/Forms/grad.pdf.

Final Examination Choices:

1. Portfolio

- You may elect to compile a portfolio in which you demonstrate how you have made progress toward the Literacy Program Goals, the International Literacy Association Standards for Reading Professionals, and the Kentucky Teacher Standards (Advanced Indicators). You will use the UK Online Portfolio System to compile your portfolio.
- UK OTIS Online Portfolio System <http://www.uky.edu/~gmswan3/>
- International Literacy Association Standards for Reading Professionals (2010) <http://www.literacyworldwide.org/get-resources/standards/standards-for-reading-professionals>
- EPSB Kentucky Teacher Standards (Advanced Indicators), <http://epsb.ky.gov/teacherprep/standards.asp>

2. Comprehensive Final Examination

- You may elect to complete 4 comprehensive examination questions in which you will be given 4 hours to write your responses to 4 comprehensive examination questions. These exams are given once each semester.

3. Master's Thesis Guidelines

- UK Graduate School Guidelines http://www.research.uky.edu/gs/CurrentStudents/theses_prep.html

Final Examination Information:

- Your advisor will assist you in making a decision about the form of your final examination (written comprehensive examination, portfolio, or master's thesis).
- If you elect to take a written comprehensive examination you will need to register for the exam, which is given once each semester. Your exam will consist of 4 questions. You will have 4 hours to provide written responses to those questions.
- If you elect to compile either a portfolio or write a master's thesis, your advisor will provide guidance as you complete those tasks. As well, your advisor will recommend choices for your examination committee and the room assignment for your defense.
- Your committee will consist of your advisor who will serve as chair and two additional graduate faculty members.
- A pass will be granted on the recommendation of a majority (2 of 3 members) of the committee.
- In the event of a failure, a second examination (usually with the same committee) may be scheduled no earlier than four months from the first exam and no later than one calendar year. A third examination is not permitted.
- Provide your committee members with ample time (at least 2 weeks) to review your portfolio or your thesis prior to your defense.
- Examinations may be scheduled only on days when classes are in regular session. Final examination week, dead week, academic holidays and semester breaks cannot be scheduled.
- Refer to the UK Registrar's academic calendar for academic holidays and to determine the last day you may

sit for an exam: www.uky.edu/Registrar/newhome/CALENDAR.html.

- Sometimes the office of one of your committee members may be large enough to accommodate you and your committee. Otherwise, contact the Instructional Technology Center at 859-257-7967. Some possible rooms include 151F Taylor Education Building (inside the Instructional Technology Center) and 122 TEB. Room 323 Dickey Hall is no longer controlled by the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. If you would like to reserve that room, contact the Registrar's office at 859-257-4903.

Final Examination:	Committee Members:
Type:	Chair:
Date:	Committee Member:
Time:	Committee Member:
Place:	

Acknowledgment Signatures: The signatures below verify that the candidate has met with a Literacy Specialist Program faculty advisor and has been advised concerning the requirements for admission, retention, and exit in the Literacy Specialist Program and understands the requirements and procedures specified above.

Candidate Signature: _____ Date: _____

Advisor Signature: _____ Date: _____