READING, MASTER OF EDUCATION (M.ED.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN K-12 READING SPECIALIST

Program goal
The K-12 reading specialist concentration in the Master of Education in Reading program is designed to provide experienced teachers who are prospective reading specialists with a program of sequential and integrated experiences in areas of the reading curriculum ranging from preschool to adult levels. Students will gain an understanding of the developmental and diagnostic processes involved in teaching reading and the language arts and will become familiar with the resource and supervisory functions that are part of the specialist role. Prior to graduation, students must complete a reading portfolio documenting their work in the program and related work experiences and pass the Reading for Virginia Educators Assessment. The M.Ed. in Reading is an approved program (K-12) for students who meet Virginia State Department of Education requirements. The reading specialist endorsement also requires completion of three years of teaching in a reading-related field.

A cooperative agreement has been established with Virginia State University to permit selected, qualified students to complete the M.Ed. in Reading program. Up to 12 credit hours from an approved list may be transferred from the cooperating institution. Interested students should contact the Department of Teaching and Learning.

Student learning outcomes
1. Demonstrate content knowledge in reading education: Candidates demonstrate content knowledge in reading education as evidenced by the Reading for Virginia Educators Assessment scores and philosophy of reading paper.
2. Effectively plan instruction: Candidates demonstrate that they can effectively plan reading and literacy instruction or fulfill other professional responsibilities in reading education as evidenced by the organizing and implementing reading programs assessment.
3. Effectively apply knowledge, skills and dispositions: Candidates demonstrate knowledge, skills and dispositions are applied effectively in practice as evidenced by the internship evaluation.
4. Demonstrate effect on student learning: Candidates demonstrate effects on student learning and provision of supportive learning environments for student learning as evidenced by the internship progress report.
5. Demonstrate IRA standards proficiency: Candidates further demonstrate proficiency on IRA competencies as evidenced by the portfolio assessment and the externship action research report and presentation assessment.

VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs
The VCU Graduate Bulletin website documents the official admission and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education for all graduate programs at the university. These policies are established by the graduate faculty of the university through their elected representatives to the University Graduate Council.

It is the responsibility of all graduate students, both on- and off-campus, to be familiar with the VCU Graduate Bulletin as well as the Graduate School website (http://www.graduated.vcu.edu) and academic regulations in individual school and department publications and on program websites. However, in all cases, the official policies and procedures of the University Graduate Council, as published on the VCU Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School websites, take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines.

Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/general-academic-regulations-graduate-students)

Degree candidacy requirements
A graduate student admitted to a program or concentration requiring a final research project, work of art, thesis or dissertation, must qualify for continuing master’s or doctoral status according to the degree candidacy requirements of the student’s graduate program. Admission to degree candidacy, if applicable, is a formal statement by the graduate student’s faculty regarding the student’s academic achievements and the student’s readiness to proceed to the final research phase of the degree program.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following degree candidacy policy as published in the VCU Graduate Bulletin for complete information and instructions.

Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/general-academic-regulations-graduate-students/degree-candidacy)

Graduation requirements
As graduate students approach the end of their academic programs and the final semester of matriculation, they must make formal application to graduate. No degrees will be conferred until the application to graduate has been finalized.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following graduation requirements as published in the Graduate Bulletin for a complete list of instructions and a graduation checklist.

Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/general-academic-regulations-graduate-students/graduation-requirements)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.eladmissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.Ed.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>GRE or MAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/admission-graduate-
study/admission-requirements), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’s degree in an appropriate discipline
2. Three letters of recommendation addressing the student’s potential for graduate study in education
3. Student’s written statement concerning career interests
4. Transcripts of all previous college work
5. Satisfactory scores on the GRE or MAT

Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/general-academic-regulations-graduate-students/graduation-requirements), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 33 credit hours.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.
3. Testing requirements: Students in the K-12 reading specialist concentration must present passing scores on state mandated licensure/endorsement assessments.

Curriculum requirements

Foundations
Research
EDUS 660 Research Methods in Education 3

Human development and learning
Select one of the following: 3
EDUS 602 Adolescent Growth and Development
EDUS 603 Seminar in Child Growth and Development
EDUS 604 Adult Development
EDUS/PSYC 607 Advanced Educational Psychology for Elementary Teachers
EDUS 609 Learning and Motivation in Education

Cultural, historical and philosophical
Select one of the following: 3
EDUS 601 Philosophy of Education
EDUS 610 Social Foundations of Education
EDUS 612 Education and the World’s Future
EDUS 614 Contemporary Educational Thought
EDUS 673 Seminar on Educational Issues, Ethics and Policy

Core courses
READ 600 Analysis and Correction of Reading Problems 3
READ 605 Organizing and Implementing Reading Programs 3
READ 672 Internship 3
READ 700 Externship 3
TEDU 561 Reading Foundations: Sociological/ Psychological Perspectives 3
TEDU 562 Reading Instruction in the Content Areas 3

Restricted electives
Select two of the following: 6
READ 601 Psycholinguistics and Language Arts Curriculum
READ 602 Literacy for Adults
TEDU 525 Teaching Language Arts
TEDU 526 Word Study
TEDU/ENGL 528 Children’s Literature II
TEDU 549 Diagnostic Reading in the Secondary School
TEDU/ENGL/LING 552 Teaching English as a Second Language

Total Hours 33

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 33

Graduate program coordinator
Julie Gorlewski, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: jagorlewski@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1305

Additional contact
Valerie Robnolt, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: vjrobnolt@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-2649

Program website: soe.vcu.edu (http://www.soe.vcu.edu)