TExAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Teaching, Learning
& Culture

Master of Education (M.Ed.) in
Curriculum & Instruction with Literacy
Emphasis

Handbook
The Department of Teaching, Learning and Culture (TLAC) administrative offices are located on the third floor of Harrington Tower (EDCT). Faculty offices are located on the second, third, and fourth floors of EDCT. The Graduate Advising Office is located in Harrington 366.

**Department Head:**
Dr. Michael de Miranda

**Literacy Program Chair:**
Dr. Kausalai Wijekumar
k_wijekumar@tamu.edu

**Certification Coordinator:**
Misti Corn
mistihcorn@tamu.edu

**Graduate Field Placement:**
Jane Rankin
janerankin@tamu.edu

**Contact Graduate Advisor:**
Christina Presley
cmpresley@tamu.edu
Program Purpose and Goals

The **Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Curriculum and Instruction with Literacy Emphasis** program within the Department of Teaching, Learning and Culture offers students the opportunity to earn their Master's degree along with completing coursework for a state certification at the same time: **State of Texas Reading Specialist**.

Research tells us that many teachers lack the knowledge necessary to deliver evidence-based literacy instruction (Binks-Cantrell, Joshi, Washburn, 2012; Binks-Cantrell, Washburn, Joshi, & Hougen, 2012; Cunningham, Zibulsky, Stanovich, & Stanovich, 2009; Moats, 2014), and we also know from personal experience that many schools across Texas desire their teachers to have additional literacy training and expertise. The Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with literacy emphasis program can help address these needs by offering distance education and face-to-face delivery options.

There are seven specific RDNG courses that must be completed to fulfill the coursework requirements for the State of Texas Reading Specialist certification: RDNG 602, 603, 604, 616, 620, 605, and 609.

There are also three other RDNG courses that are recommended as electives (RDNG 612, 613, and 630) from which students can choose to fulfill the remaining 6 hours necessary for their Master's degree. These courses are outlined on the degree plan included in this document.

**Distance Education Delivery Option**

To reach more potential students and current/future teachers across the state of Texas and beyond, a distance education option for the program was added in the Spring of 2018. Offering distance education options for all of the required certification courses also offers students in other online Master’s programs the opportunity to complete the required coursework for the state certifications as electives if they wish to do so.

The online program offering of the Reading Specialist certification includes both asynchronous and synchronous online classes for students. Asynchronous courses are those where students complete course requirements, as indicated by the syllabus and deadlines, on their own time. Four courses are offered asynchronously: RDNG 602 (Summer), RDNG 612/613 (Fall), RDNG 630 (Spring), and RDNG 620 (Fall). The other courses
are offered synchronously, which means the classes occur on Tuesday and/or Wednesday evenings in video conference conjunction with the face to face section of the course. Students enrolled in those classes will join the face to face class via video conference.

Students joining face to face classes via video conference participate in class just as if they were attending in person. They are provided electronic copies of PowerPoints, documents, and any other materials being utilized in class ahead of time. They are encouraged and asked to participate in discussions and are placed with a partner or small group for breakout discussions/work.

For the reading clinic practicum courses (RDNG 604 and 605), students who are seeking Texas Reading Specialist certification are asked to find a struggling reader from their community and video record some of the assessment and instructional sessions (with necessary permissions secured and precautions taken for video recording). Standardized tests used in the reading clinic are shipped to students at a distance and they will sign an agreement to assume responsibility for returning the tests in quality condition via a prepaid shipping label. Money generated from the distance education fees as well as the reading clinic fees will be used to pay for the shipping of tests.

References


Program Admission

All M.Ed. with literacy emphasis applicants must meet minimum requirements as set by Texas A&M University. While satisfying the minimum admission criteria qualifies the applicant to be considered, meeting minimum criteria for admission to the university does not guarantee admission to this program. A departmental admission committee considers all criteria with emphasis on prior professional experiences having prepared the individual for roles where literary expertise might be valuable and best applied. Excellent writing skills are also highly valued.

Applicants must submit an Apply Texas application with all TLAC Departmental requirements uploaded in the Applicant Information System (AIS) to be fully considered for admission. Students should visit http://tlac.tamu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/med-and-ms-admission-requirements to read the specifics about the admissions process.

Minimum Criteria for Admission

Applications are considered for spring, summer and fall admission to the program. March 1st is the deadline for summer and fall admission, and October 1st is the deadline for spring admission. The GRE General test is not required to be eligible for admission to the program. This program does not provide initial teacher certification. These criteria include:

- **Apply Texas application**, including $65 non-refundable fee: www.applytexas.org
- **Official transcripts and records**: submitted directly to Graduate Admissions Processing
- **Two essays uploaded in one document to Texas A&M's Applicant Information System**: https://applicant.tamu.edu/
- **Three letters of recommendation** submitted through the Texas A&M electronic Applicant Information System: https://applicant.tamu.edu/
- Minimum 2.75 GPR
- Hold a valid Texas teacher certification through TEA
M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction (C&I)  
with Literacy Emphasis, including coursework for Reading Specialist Certification*

Name: ____________________________________  
UIN: ____________________________________

Semester of Entry: ______________________  
Faculty Advisor: _______________________

Distance Education: Yes  No

**Required Core Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>Semester Available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDCI 602</td>
<td>Cultural Foundations of Education</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fall, Spring, Summer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDCI 644</td>
<td>Curriculum Development</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fall, Spring, Summer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDCI 673</td>
<td>Analysis of Teaching Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fall, Spring, Summer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Departmental Required Electives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>Semester Available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RDNG 602</td>
<td>Teaching Reading in the Elementary Grades</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fall*, Summer*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDNG 603</td>
<td>Using Advanced Literacy to Teach &amp; Learn Across Disciplines</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDNG 604^</td>
<td>Reading Diagnosis</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fall*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDNG 605^</td>
<td>Practicum in Literacy Intervention</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDNG 609</td>
<td>Foundations of Reading Instruction</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDNG 616</td>
<td>Organization and Supervision of Reading Programs</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Summer*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDNG 620</td>
<td>Literacy and Language</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fall*, Summer*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDNG 630</td>
<td>Writing Development Assessment &amp; Instruction</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RDNG Electives  

Choose one:  
RDNG 612: Children’s Literature & Literacy OR  
RDNG 613: Multicultural Children’s Literature & Literacy  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>Semester Available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>RDNG 612 or RDNG 613:</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Courses offered in an on campus/synchronous format  
^Courses offered in an asynchronous format (Will count as a Distance Education course)  
^RDNG 604 is a prerequisite for RDNG 605 (160-hour practicum is required if seeking Reading Specialist certification)

Please note important information:

- After 15 hours of successfully completed courses, you must file a degree plan.
- This program includes both asynchronous (online only) and synchronous (face-to-face and online) classes.
# Steps to M.Ed. Success: Earning your M.Ed. in Curriculum & Instruction with Literacy Emphasis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>What to Do</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Approved by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Accept offer of admission to certification program; communicate with faculty advisor to plan course of study for first semester; work with advisor to process all paperwork</td>
<td>Before first semester registration</td>
<td>Faculty Advisor, Advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Attend new student orientation</td>
<td>Before the start of your first full semester</td>
<td>Faculty Advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Complete CITI training</td>
<td>Before the end of your first semester</td>
<td>Advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Successfully complete first semester of coursework, maintaining at least a 3.0 GPR</td>
<td>First semester (and each semester thereafter)</td>
<td>Advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Establish committee chair; find two other committee members; submit your degree plan online</td>
<td>When you are registered for your 15th hour of coursework</td>
<td>Advisor, chair, department head, OGAPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Update your degree plan using a long-form petition if courses taken differ from those on the degree plan</td>
<td>When earning credit hours 15-36 of your degree</td>
<td>Advisor, chair, department head, OGAPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Email your chair when you are entering your final semester of coursework to schedule your oral final exam. Download and complete the “Request and Announcement of Final Exam” form from OGAPS.</td>
<td>Final semester of courses</td>
<td>Advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Complete Certification Application document. Check to make sure degree program and committee chair are up to date and course work is complete</td>
<td>Before applying for graduation</td>
<td>Advisor, chair and department head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Apply for a degree online at the Howdy portal; pay graduation fee</td>
<td>During first week of final semester; pay graduation fee; see OGAPS calendar</td>
<td>OGAPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Graduation: arrange for cap and gown at graduation.tamu.edu</td>
<td>After you apply for graduation before deadline</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Take certification test and apply for certification through TEA</td>
<td>After approved by certification office</td>
<td>CEHD Cert Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>Update your distance location in Howdy</td>
<td>Each semester</td>
<td>Registrar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Distance Education Restrictions

The department has specific rules and regulations related to campus-based programs. One of these regulations is a limit of four (4) courses taken in a distance or online format if you are a campus-based student. If you are a campus-based student and take more than four courses in an online format, these additional courses beyond the limit of four courses cannot count toward the 36-hour degree plan, and exceeding the limit will prevent you from graduating.

Reading Specialist Certification

Overview

The Reading Specialist certification program requires admission to the Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Curriculum & Instruction in the Department of TLAC. Students will need to provide a TEA ID# and a UIN within 7 days of their acceptance notification.

The Reading Specialist certificate is a State of Texas teaching certificate that requires:

- A valid Texas teaching certificate
- Two years of successful teaching experience in an accredited school (can be completed before, during, or after coursework)
- The successful completion of a 160-hour field practicum, including three observations from a University Supervisor hired by TLAC
- A passing score on the TExES Reading Specialist (151) exam

Seven specific courses will prepare Reading Specialist candidates to meet the state requirements listed above: RDNG 602, RDNG 603, RDNG 604, RDNG 605, RDNG 609, RDNG 616, and RDNG 620.

To comply with both the Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Curriculum & Instruction and state requirements, Reading Specialist candidates will enroll in two practicum-designated courses:

- RDNG 604: Reading Diagnosis (fall semester)
- RDNG 605: Clinic Teaching in Reading (spring semester)

The content in these two courses is designed to strengthen knowledge, skills and dispositions related to literacy processes while providing opportunities to apply course content via intervention tutoring experiences in a PreK-12 school setting.
1. Students must declare their intention in the option to pursue the Reading Specialist certification when accepting the admission offer for the master's graduate program. Students who do not declare intention to be certified at the beginning of their program (upon admission) will not be approved to take the TExES Reading Specialist (151) exam.

2. Students can later choose not to take the TExES Reading Specialist (151) exam but will not be able to change their mind after 6 months of graduation have passed.

3. Students must take the TExES Reading Specialist (151) exam within 6 months of graduation.

4. When students declare their interest in pursuing Reading Specialist certification upon accepting admission into the program, they must also claim a TEA ID# if they do not already have one. The TEA ID# must be claimed at the time of admission into the master's program.

5. All requested information must be provided by the student by the deadlines provided.

6. A 160-hour field practicum time log and three observations conducted by a University Supervisor must be submitted during RDNG 604 and/or RDNG 605.

7. During the final semester of coursework, students will notify the graduate field placement office for approval to take the TExES Reading Specialist (151) exam.

8. The student cannot test until they have completed all required coursework and met practicum requirements. The exam must be taken before 6 months have passed. Students will not receive certification until they have received their diploma, passed the exam, and have provided documentation of past teaching experience (minimum of 2 years for the Reading Specialist certificate).

9. If the student does not yet have the required teaching experience, they can still be approved to take the TExES Reading Specialist (151) exam but certification will not take place until they can send us a service record that demonstrates successful completion of the required teaching experience at an accredited school.

10. Teaching experience cannot be satisfied by pre-certification observation hours, student teaching or substitute teaching experience.

11. Students who began their graduate studies prior to 2014 can no longer be approved to take the test.
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) POLICY STATEMENT

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, currently located in the Disability Services building at the Student Services at White Creek complex on west campus or call 979-845-1637. For additional information, visit http://disability.tamu.edu

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT AND POLICY

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do.”

Academic integrity is an essential force in the academic life of a university. It enhances the quality of education and celebrates the genuine achievements of others. It is, without reservation, a responsibility of all members of the Texas A&M University Community to actively promote academic integrity. Apathy or acquiescence in the presence of academic dishonesty is not a neutral act -- failure to confront and deter it will reinforce, perpetuate, and enlarge the scope of such misconduct. Failure to comply with the honor code in any way can lead to dismissal from program. The decision to be removed from the program is made at the departmental level. For further information: https://student-rules.tamu.edu/aggiecode/

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic honesty is paramount to the success of all students within the department to ensure the integrity of our programs and degrees offered. All students within the Department of Teaching, Learning, and Culture must comply with the Honor System Rules with regard to all aspects of community responsibility and academic misconduct. Students identified as violating academic honesty will be reported to the Aggie Honor Code office. Any academic misconduct confirmed by the Honor Council will result in dismissal from the TLAC program.